NOVEMBER 2006 Rs.10/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

Music Goes Hi-Tech!

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For age 6 - 14

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Contents

Stories

Think Quick - 20
The Missing Necklace - 42
Countdown - 46
Those Pesky Boys and the Parasite - 68
The Case of the Cupboard Puller - 74

Picture Stories:

Ekalavya - 12
Fatso's Fall - 32
Detective Dumpy - 52
Tinku - 80

Science:

Colours of the Chameleon - 28
Antarctica - 62
Wonder Science - 67

Monthly Contests:

Plus - Minus - 16
Gogo's Grid - 4 - 65

Favourites:

Grandmaworm, Viewpoint, Hello Doctor, Jokes, Art Gallery, Creative Corner, Let's Cook Up, News Digest, Pot Pourri

The drawing featured on top of each page in this issue is by

R.Ranjana, Std II, T.V.S. Matric.Hr.Sec.School, Madurai

Happy Children's Day

Cover design : **Lalithaa**

NOVEMBER 2006
Vol. XIX, No.5

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children

GOKULAM
(A Kalki Group Publication)

printed and published at
Bharathan Press
on behalf of
Bharathan Publications
Private Limited
Kalki buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 032

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subscription rates :

inland : annual
Rs.120/-

overseas : annual
26 US Dollars

THE Magazine for Children

Down with Child Labour!

Dear Reader,

There is a lot of awareness these days on child labour. School children too participate in protest marches, holding placards denouncing child labour.

Most parents want their children to go to school but poverty drives them to do otherwise. If their standard of living goes up, children will not be working.

It is estimated that there are about 200 million less privileged children in this country. If all these children are sent to school as enshrined in our constitution, then there won't be any child labour. This is an obvious conclusion.

But what will happen to these children when they have completed their school years? Will there be enough jobs for them? Not even the fast expanding I.T. industry can provide so many jobs.

The only solution is vocational education. Children must be made to understand the dignity of labour. They must become skilled in some profession or other so that, after the school years they can stand on their own feet. They should not hanker after white collared jobs in air conditioned rooms.

Such an education will help eradicate unemployment, poverty and child labour. MCAs and MBAs are ofcourse needed. But farmers, mechanics, plumbers, carpenters, electricians and hundreds of other professionals are as important as doctors or engineers.

— Editor

From Our President

A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi - 110004

3 October 2006

Dear Smt. Lakshmi Natarajan,

Thank you for your letter and sending me your magazine for the children "Gokulam". It indeed highlights how imaginative are children. A good work.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(A. P. J. Abdul Kalam)

Smt. Lakshmi Natarajan
Chief Executive Officer
Bharathan Publications Private Limited
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Ekkaduthangal, Chennai – 600 032

SANDHYA SRIDHAR

Sound

Through modern history, there have been various attempts to record sound. But Thomas Alva Edison was the first to succeed.

For a moment, let us rewind to a world without the record or CD player. Unimaginable, isn't it!

The vocal tradition had for long been the substitute for what technology is today. Bards and wandering minstrels recorded and retold history and myth through poetry and music in all civilizations. These wandering performers were entertainers as well as news providers, as they made available news and views from one place to another. Needless to say, such reproductions of sound history took time to move from place to place.

Cover Story

Somewhere down the last few hundred years, as the world became more advanced and technology saw its first seeds being sown, the idea of recording sound was born.

Many attempted to record sound to be replayed, but finally, it was Edison who managed to fix the problem in 1877. As you probably know he recorded "Mary had a little lamb" on the first tinfoil cylinder phonograph. John Kruesi built the first practical machine from a sketch made by Edison. None of the first tinfoil recordings have survived but suddenly, a whole new world of reproducible sound had been opened up!

The cylinders became flat discs — 10-inch discs with 4-minute

Radio Ga Ga

With new FM stations being the talking point in many metros in our country, the radio is seeing a revival of sorts. This medium, that lost out to television in the 70s became the poor man's mode of entertainment in the last two decades. But now, radio is 'hot' as they say, and is back to popularity in a contemporary avatar on FM.

The technology behind the radio was once called wireless technology, which became known as 'wireless.' I will not repeat for you here the story of how the radio came into being, except to say that though it is popularly credited to Marconi (who founded the first

capacity for play. This was in 1902. The phonograph came into being, with improved discs with an increased capacity for sound storage. History had literally turned; Edison himself jumped into the fray when he made what was called the 'diamond' disc and players.

The first gramophone with mass

Bytes!

produced copies was finally invented by Emile Berliner, giving birth to a whole new industry of sound. These phonographs still ruled till about twenty years ago — as LPs or Long Playing records. These were gramaphones with an arm that had a little stylus for reading the sounds from the flat discs that had grooves in them.

These were also called 'turntables'.

The music industry was expanding and growing like never before. Popular music like jazz and blues began to be recorded and marketed. This was an important phase in the growth of the music industry since before this, it was only classical music recordings that were made. Another new development, the motion picture, added its own impetus to the music industry when sound from popular pictures were added to the recording lists.

Then came the invention of magnetic tape and recording moved on to completely new technology in 1928. A magnetic coating to a strip of paper, film or plastic-based tape was the new breeding ground for sound recording.

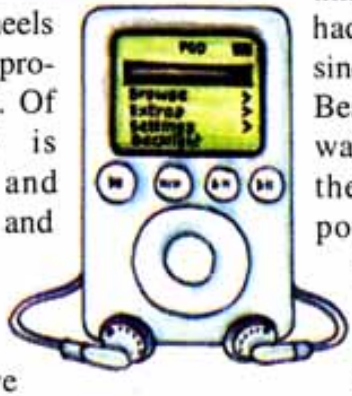
Two open-spooled

commercial organisation for the development of radio), there are many others like Nikola Tesla, Alex Popov and Edwin Armstrong who were part of its evolution.

The first commercial radio broadcasts began in the United States in the 1920s. Did you know that the word 'broadcasting' itself originated from an agricultural term that meant 'the scattering of seeds'. 'Broadcasting' was enabled with the help of the widespread availability of radio receivers, especially in Europe and the U.S. and the technology not only began to be used for communication as in messages, but also for the relaying of radio programmes.

From the 1920s to the 1940s, radio ruled as entertainment, but with

tapes that looked like wheels on a sound machine, reproduced recorded sound. Of course, technology is obsessed with size and making things smaller and more easily usable... This open spooled tape evolved to the cassette tape as we see it today. If you look closely at a tape, you will find that it works on the same two spool mechanism described above, but in a much much smaller size.



In my parents' days, it was a thrill to just listen to a recording. That was real long ago for you, since my teenage kids are now hooked on to the iPod. Some time in 'those days', my father brought back a 'little' portable music player that made music to magnetic spool tape. The 'little' player was about a foot by a foot. But in those days, that was big time 'cool'! Not everyone had access to technology since it was expensive too. Besides, not much music was available to play — there was music from popular English films, plenty of Western classical from Bach to Beethoven and some Indian music from films and some little classical. That's about all you got to listen to. The sound that emanated from the machine was what you would call 'tinny' today – and that was from a stereo!

Rock and Roll and the Beatles made listening to music a rage the world over. Countries developed their own music industries that were based on their own musical cultures. In India itself, we will find an astonishing range of music ranging from films, to classical and pop.

In 1982, the first 5" CD disc was launched, thus formally merging music technology with computers. In

the advent of television in Europe, its popularity began to wane. By the 1950s, most programming in Britian was by the BBC and the content was music, news, sports and drama.

Similarly, in South Asia, Radio Ceylon, that was launched by British engineer Edward Harper in 1925, ruled as the oldest and the only radio station. Even today, people in India remember how popular Radio Ceylon was in the last century.

Today, FM channels on radio are run very much like television channels with private operators vying with one another to offer interesting content that will attract listeners. Such FM stations offer latest and the most popular music and target different kinds of

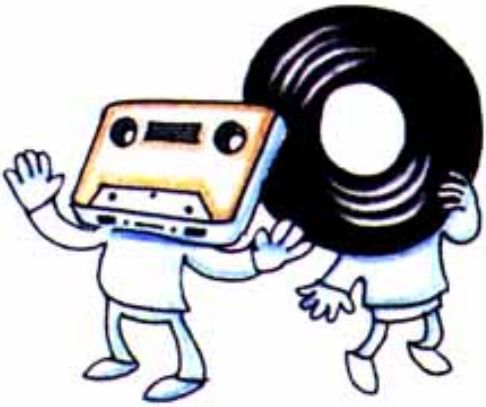
1988, for the first time, CD sales outstripped the sales of LPs, laying the ground for the music industry as it is today — with CDs and tapes ruling the roost.

Today, most of us are technology savvy, updating ourselves constantly to be 'in' with what is the latest. Internet and the world wide web changed things further along with MP3 technology. In India, this is just catching on, but we are closer to this than we know. Many of our mobile phones come with the MP3 player.

Let us jump forward in time to the present, where a little chip, in a brilliant marketing and technological move by Apple, became the iPod; and in a stroke, has changed the future of sound to something other that the CD and the tape.

The iPod, that was introduced in

2001, became what the 'Walkman' was a decade ago... without the hassles of lugging with you tapes and CDs. You just download the music you want on this little instrument, the size of a pack



of playing cards and much slimmer, which you hooked to your belt or put into your pocket, and presto, you could listen to the music you want and endless amounts of it, the way you want it to play.

The sound of music is certainly becoming simpler.

listeners to remain popular. Advertisements are run between the playing of the music or the program content and between the programs, very much like on television.

An interesting offshoot of this boom in radio is that this segment has opened up a whole new set of professions, from sound and other engineers to 'radio jockeys', the people who anchor a radio show. These days, 'radio jockeys' are stars in themselves and people listen to a program because they like a certain jockey and his or her way of presentation. Since the radio is cheap and easily purchasable, and can be transported; it is also available on mobile phones and as car radios — hence this form of entertainment is now accessible to all.

— S.S

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

We love reading — Naturally we love Gokulam!

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Gokulam
'Kalki Buildings',
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
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E-mail : subscription@kalkiweekly.com

Goonda Raj or Democracy?

Local body elections are over in Tamilnadu. Prior to the polls, in a sensational switch over of loyalties, the Dalit Panther Party headed by Thirumavalavan, crossed over to the DMK front from the AIADMK front. The violence on the two poll days were unprecedented. Both the ruling DMK and the main opposition the AIADMK, blame each other for the violence unleashed. Significantly Varadarajan, Communist leader whose party is part of the DMK front, has accused the ruling DMK of taking to violence, which according to him, "made the democratic process a mockery."

* Shinzo Abe

Shizo Abe has become the Prime Minister of Japan at the age of 52. He is the youngest Prime Minister that Japan has ever had.

Dengue in the north and Chikkungunya in the south have taken heavy toll of human lives. In spite of assurances by central and state health ministers that these diseases do not cause deaths, at least one hundred have died owing to Dengue alone. Everyone knows that the disease is spread by mosquitos. The government seems to concentrate on temporary measures like mosquito control. The permanent solution is keeping our rivers, canals, lakes and ponds clean and free of pollution. This needs not only huge funding but also educating the public.

North Korea has exploded an atomic bomb underground. India has joined hands with America, Britain, Japan and other countries in condemning the act.. But how can there be two sets of rules, one for those who are already empowered and another for those who want to attain the capability? There is no solution to the problem unless, all countries of the world give up stock piling and experimenting on weapons of mass destruction.

* Kim Jong Il

ADITI IYER

Since the ICC World Cup in 1996, the first ICC tournament to take place in India is the Fifth Champions Trophy. Naturally the game has created a positive stir in our cricket-loving nation.

The origin of the ICC Champions Trophy is fairly recent. It was started by the International Cricket Council, the world body for cricket, in a bid to popularise cricket in traditionally soccer nations.

In 1998 and 2000, it was called the ICC Knock Out Tournament. Here the losing side was eliminated from the game without being given a second chance.

In 2002, the tournament was renamed the ICC Champions Trophy with the format undergoing a drastic change. The Knock Out format gave way to the Round Robin League format. In the current tournament eight teams have been split into two pools.

The resemblance to the World Cup format has been criticised but there are a number of differences between the two. The World Cup played once in four years definitely makes its more competitive. However the Champions Trophy only ensures excitement and a rehearsal before making it big in the larger tournament. Even in the short history of the ICC Champions Trophy, the best cricketing talents have recorded many spectacular moments for the cricket lovers of the world.

Here are some records and statistics of the tournaments to date (Jaipur match):

The highest total: 347 for four in 50 overs, New Zealand Vs USA, The Oval, 2004.

The lowest total: 65 in 24 overs, USA Vs Australia, Rose Bowl, 2004.

Highest winning margin was 210 runs when New Zealand beat USA, The Oval in 2004.

Narrowest winning margin: 10 runs—India v South Africa, Colombo, 2002.

Most 100s: Three — Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa) in five matches.

Did you know that India bowled the highest number of extras in a match? 42 runs against Kenya in 2004!

Extras was the top score in the Netherlands Vs Pakistan match in Colombo, 2002! Extras 33, R.P. Lefebvre 32!

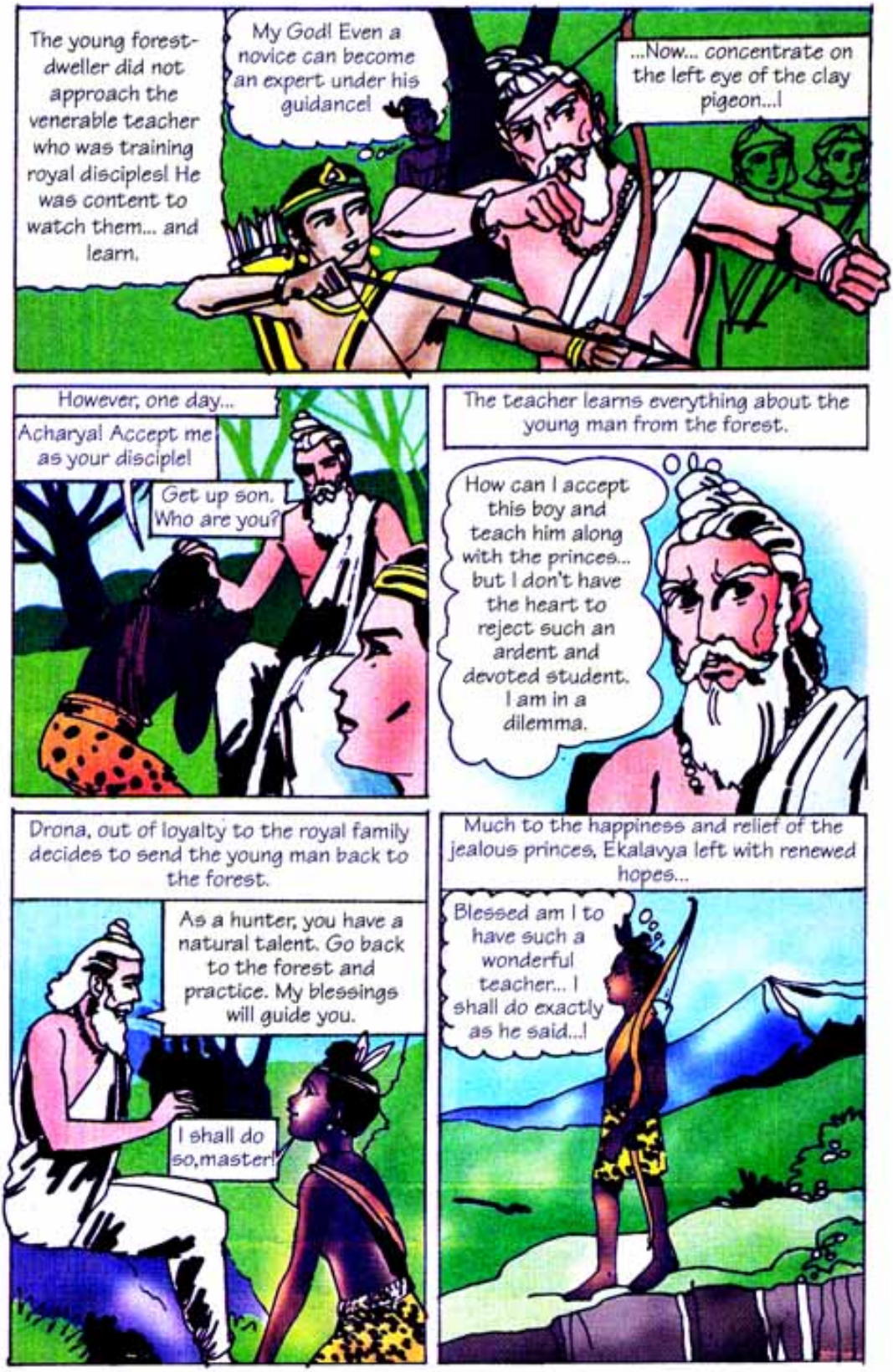
S.A. Bucknor has officiated in the most number of matches–19 till date.

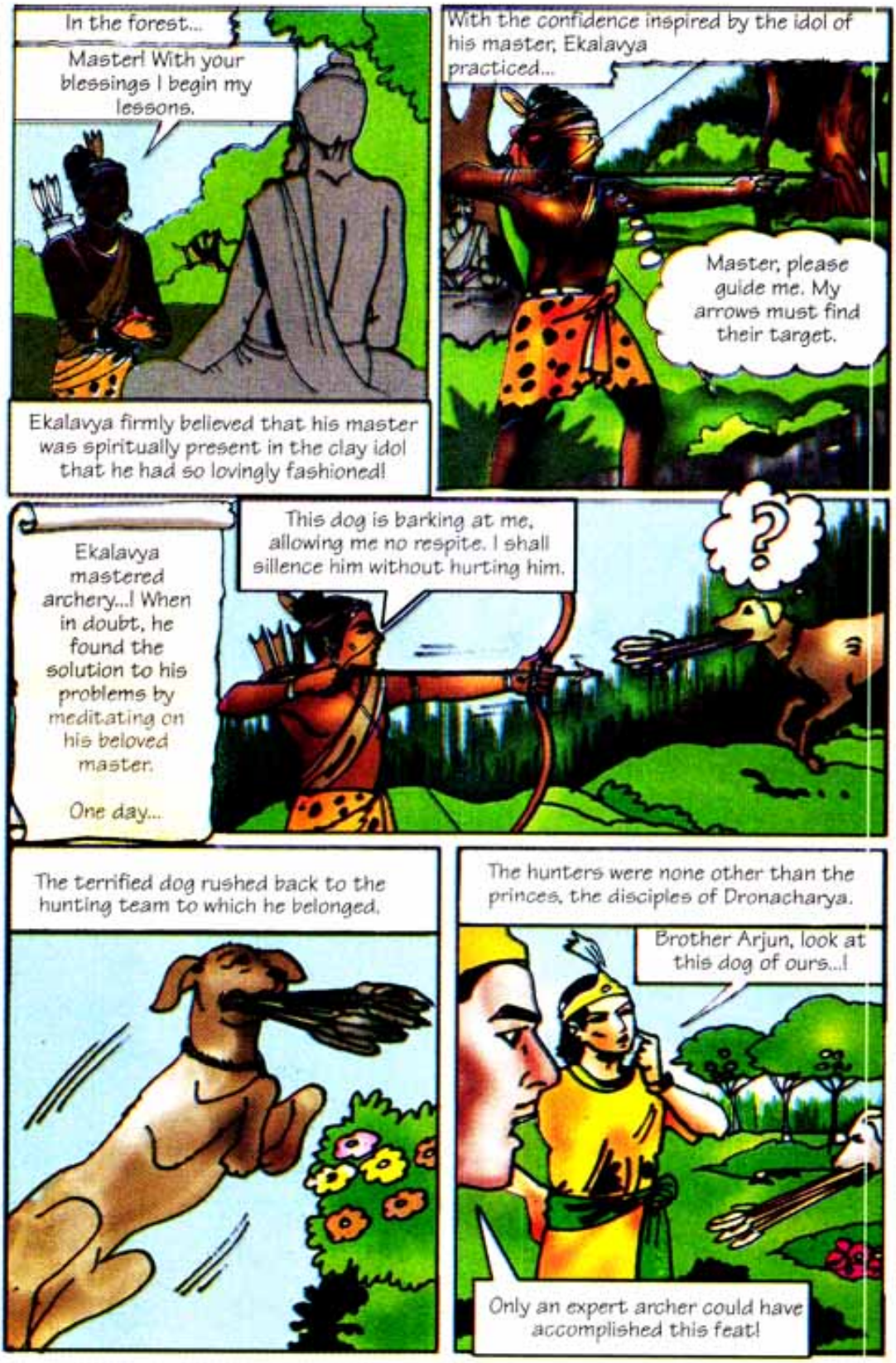
Sourav Ganguly holds many records in the Champions Trophy He has scored the most runs–665. He too scored three 100s, but over 13 matches. He captained the most matches consecutively–11. S.P. Fleming (NZ) shares the honour with him (11 at Mumbai), but will beat him when the current series is over. He has scored the second highest number of sixers-6

These are just a few records. More such records will have been set in the current tournament. The most eagarly awaited result will be—who will win the Trophy?

EKALAVYA

Story, Picture: Lalithaa


The young forest-dweller did not approach the venerable teacher who was training royal disciples! He was content to watch them... and learn.
My God! Even a novice can become an expert under his guidance!
...Now... concentrate on the left eye of the clay pigeon...!
However, one day...
Acharya! Accept me as your disciple!
Get up son. Who are you?
The teacher learns everything about the young man from the forest.
How can I accept this boy and teach him along with the princes... but I don't have the heart to reject such an ardent and devoted student. I am in a dilemma.
Drona, out of loyalty to the royal family decides to send the young man back to the forest.
As a hunter, you have a natural talent. Go back to the forest and practice. My blessings will guide you.
I shall do so,master!
Much to the happiness and relief of the jealous princes, Ekalavya left with renewed hopes...
Blessed am I to have such a wonderful teacher... I shall do exactly as he said...!

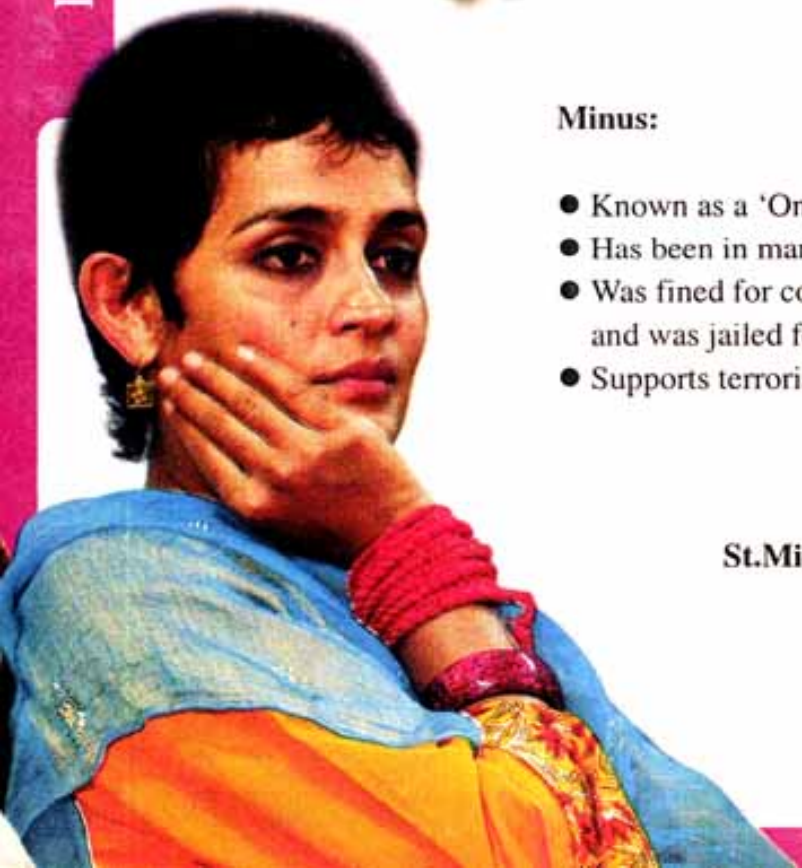

In the forest...
Master! With your blessings I begin my lessons.
Ekalavya firmly believed that his master was spiritually present in the clay idol that he had so lovingly fashioned!
With the confidence inspired by the idol of his master, Ekalavya practiced...
Master, please guide me. My arrows must find their target.
Ekalavya mastered archery...! When in doubt, he found the solution to his problems by meditating on his beloved master.
One day...
This dog is barking at me, allowing me no respite. I shall silence him without hurting him.
?
The terrified dog rushed back to the hunting team to which he belonged.
The hunters were none other than the princes, the disciples of Dronacharya.
Brother Arjun, look at this dog of ours...!
Only an expert archer could have accomplished this feat!

Acharya Drona came to know of this extraordinary happening and wanted to know who the cause of this was.
In which part of the forest were you when this happened?...
Drona, along with his disciples visited Ekalavya at this abode. Overjoyed to see his beloved master, Ekalavya welcomed him and the others with due respect.
Son! You are indeed a great archer I'm pleased... but..!
You are my master. I'm ready to do anything for you.
Son, I promised to Arjuna that I shall make HIM the greatest archer. I have to keep my word.
Master, I shall sacrifice my life for you if it can help you keep your word.
...Ekalavya... I do not want your life! Just your right thumb will do. Can you give me that as your Gurudakshina...?
Ekalavya did precisely that. He cut off his right thumb and offered it to his guru as his Gurudakshina.
O Master! Please accept this... I'm blessed.
Thus Ekalavya came to be known as the model student... incomparable and a legend... In defeat did he conquer.

Plus:

- The first Indian to win the prestigious Booker Prize.
- First Indian author to sign a million dollar deal.
- Named one of the fifty most beautiful people in the world in 1993
- An activist championing the cause of those displaced in the Narmada Valley.
- Spoke out against the Iraq War on an international platform.

One Booker Marvel!



Minus:

- Known as a 'One Book Marvel'.
- Has been in many controversies.
- Was fined for contempt of court and was jailed for one day.
- Supports terrorist ideologies.

— Ajay Ashok,
Std VIII,
St.Michael's Academy,
Chennai

Have Your Say

Work Smart!

Discipline is a word that we hear many times a day. Self discipline, road discipline, social discipline, discipline in educational institutions. But what is discipline? It is the systematic manner of carrying out our daily activities, which leads to success in life. It is a necessity in every walk of life.

Discipline helps in character building. Personal discipline in a student's life, makes life less stressful. A student who is regular in his work will find that tasks don't pile up. When he studies the lessons for the day he will find that what was taught that day is firmly entrenched in his mind. This way he will be working smart. He will experience the joy of keeping upto commitments. Life will be more enjoyable.

It is not just about study either. In the playground too, discipline is a must. Regular hours of consistent practice is what makes a champion. This includes proper and wholesome meals and exercise done in a methodical manner.

The lives of many luminaires are worth looking at. Tireless hours of disciplined research and study have given us innumerable inventions and discoveries.Take our sporting heroes. Did Sachin, Dravid, Sehwag get to where they are without sustained and systematic work?

Even the tiny ant has something to teach those of us who shy away from hard work and

discipline. Proper utilisation of time, a product of discipline, aids personal development.

If we as students are able to make discipline our way of life, then that word will no longer irritate us. Instead that quality will pave the way for a better tomorrow not only for each one of us, but also for the whole world!

— Roohum Magesh, Std.X,
The High Range School,
Munnar.

AFRAID NO LONGER

NOT AT HOME

This incident occurred when I was five-years-old. The telephone was ringing and I had the habit of rushing to pick up the receiver. I answered that call as usual. It was for my uncle. When I informed him about it he asked me to say that he was not at home. "My uncle says that he is not at home. Please call later," I said over the phone. The caller realising that my uncle was at home requested me to hand over the receiver to him. After that incident I requested my mom to teach me how to take a call. I will never forget this incident in my life.

— Lakshmi Sarathy,
Std X, S.S.V.M.
Bangalore

SWEPT AWAY

Our family had been on a trip to the holy places in the north. At Varanasi we went to bathe in the Ganges. I was standing on the steps, just about to get into the river carefully when I slipped—there was a lot of algae on that step. The current was rather strong and I got pulled along.

I was drowning. I did not know swimming. I was unable to shout for help since I kept sinking under water. I waved my arms but no one seemed to notice me. Just when I thought it was the end of me, someone caught hold of my hands and pulled me to safety. I managed to thank the person.

I shudder to think what might have happened had that man not

saved my life...

— A.Avinash,
Std IX, Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Chennai

DUTY DONE!

When I was in sixth standard I had the first experience of going home alone from school. It was raining very hard and as a result, my usual auto driver did not turn up. I called my mom from the school office. She suggested I come home by myself hiring an auto. I was dripping wet and feeling numb when an auto came my way. I told him where I had to go. He agreed. We were just a short distance from my house when the auto ran out of petrol. I had no money to pay him and I had thought of paying him on reaching home. He didn't mind at all when he came to know of this. "Don't worry," he said. "I'm happy I have been able to drop you near your house. I've been of some help in this torrential rain."

I thanked him and walked home. From that day I'm not afraid of returning home by myself.

— Yogika Garg, Std IX,
Little Scholar School, Hyderabad

JUMPING JACK

This happened to me when I was in Std VIII. I used to run on benches and jump on to the floor. Once, I wore my new glasses to school. That day as usual I started hopping from one bench to the other. I tripped on one of the benches and broke my new glasses. I got a good scolding from my parents. Since that incident I no longer hop on benches.

— Lokesh, Std IX,
S.B.O.A. & Junior College, Chennai

THINK QUICK!

It had rained that morning. The air was clean and the weather cool. "Just the kind of afternoon for hot tasty pakoras," said Prateek to no one in particular, as he gazed out of window.

His mother who had just entered the room, smiled. "I could make some if you can run along to the store and pick up a packet of gram flour," she said.

Prateek was up like a shot. Just as he reached the door, he remembered something. "Mum, shall I pay the mechanic as well? The garage is on the way, you know."

"No, son, you are too young. And it is a lot of money! Too much of a risk," she said.

"I am not all that young, Mum! I am twelve years old and responsible too!" said Prateek proudly, standing absolutely straight.

His mother laughed, "Okay then, I give in. But do take care." So saying his mother gave him five hundred rupees. Prateek kept it in his pocket.

Three days ago, a truck had rammed into Prateek's father's motor cycle. It had been badly damaged. Prateek's father had taken it to the mechanic who had attended to it at once. Prateek's father did not have the required amount of money at that time with him. He had promised to send it over soon.

The sky was still overcast. Prateek decided to take an umbrella. It belonged to his grandfather. It also doubled as a walking stick, as it had a hooked handle.

His first stop was the grocery store where he bought the gram flour. When he reached the mechanic's shop, he found it was closed. So he started back home.

All of a sudden he halted. He had this feeling of being followed. He looked behind him but could see no one. A sudden fear gripped him. The road ahead of him was deserted. He walked on, only to find a man blocking his way.

"Give me whatever you have with you," the man said in a low menacing voice.

Prateek stood stock still, too afraid to move. The thug pulled out a knife. "Did you not hear me? Give me all your money or else...." He brought the knife closer.

"Allow me to take it out," stammered Prateek, thinking quickly. He had to keep the thug engaged. The street was never deserted for long. People would certainly come by very soon.

"Hurry up, boy, hurry up," the thug hassled him.

"How can I? My hands are not free," said Prateek, showing the packet

of gram flour in one hand and the umbrella in the other.

Prateek deliberately dropped his umbrella and said, "Oh! Oh! Pick up my umbrella while I take out the money."

The thug did so and as he looked up, Prateek threw the flour into his face, blinding him. The umbrella dropped from his hand. Prateek picked it up and quickly hooked the thug's foot with the handle of the umbrella and pulled him down. He then proceeded to rain blows on the thug's head with the umbrella.

By this time some passers-by came to his aid. He told them what had happened. Someone summoned the police, who arrested the thug.

"Well done, my boy!" the policeman applauded Prateek, "That was very brave indeed! Worthy of a reward. I shall recommend your name for one."

"That's fine, thank you, Sir. But I need to pick up some gram flour first. My mother is waiting for it so she can make me some hot pakoras!" grinned Prateek as he turned and headed for the store once again.

— T. Sai Nikhil, Std IX, Naagarjuna High School, Hyderabad

Name : **Sheetal Sanjini Jannu**
Age : 9
Address : Lok Upuan, Phase II, G-3, Flat no-701 Pakhran RD no-2, Thane (W) 400 610, Maharashtra.
Hobbies: Drawing, dance, writing, singing.

Name : **S.Ragavan**
Age : 14
Address :
No.4, Manoranchittam Salai, Annamalai Nagar, Trichy - 18
Hobbies: Reading, collecting stamps, playing football, watching TV, painting, listening to music.

Name : **Mangesh**
Age : 17
Address : Milt Residential School, Old Vishnu Sadan, P.O.Khuranha, Bihar - 813 116
Hobbies: Playing basketball, watching TV, reading Gokulam and swimming.

Name : **Shashi T.Umesh**
Age : 14
Address : Door No.228, Building -4, K.H.B. Colony, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560 060
Hobbies: Reading, playing, cycling and making new friends.

Name : **Arnab Mishra**
Age : 12
Address : Qtr No - C-3/3,

Just a Line

Unit -6, Bhubaneswar-751 001

Hobbies: Cycling, listening to music, watching movies, reading, playing football.

Name : **R.Varsha**

Age : 12

Address : G_2 Plot 11&12 S.V.R. Homes, Panchavati Colony, Tarbund, Secunderabad - 500 009

Hobbies: Reading books, dancing, singing, making handicrafts, painting.

Name : **Prathima Raje .B.M**

Age : 13

Address : 3/464, Kavimani II- Cross Street, Bank Colony, Narayanapuram, Madurai - 625 014.

Away

Hobbies: Gardening, painting, reading books, doing pencil shading, browsing internet, dancing, watching movies and collecting stamps.

Name : **Lokesh**

Age : 13

Address : 151/10, Golden Jubilee Flats, Padikuppam Road, Anna nagar, Chennai - 600 040

Hobbies:

Painting, playing football, creating designs, reading adventurous, humorous and ghost stories, listening to music.

Name : **Indulekha .M.P**

Age : 9

Address : Meppurathu House, Mekkadampu P.O. Muvattupuzha - 682 316. Kerala

Hobbies: Reading story books, watching T.V, listening to music, studying classical music, drawing and painting.

Name : **S.Padmavathi,**

Age : 13

Address : New 47, Beach Home Avenue, 2nd Street, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 90

Hobbies: Reading story books, Gokulam and watching T.V.

Name : **Amthul Nimrah**

Age : 10

Address : #1 Mir Bakshi Ali Street, Royapettah,

Chennai - 600 014.

Hobbies: Drawing, painting, reading Gokulam and other books, learning new facts, playing piano, collecting stamps.

RICE & CORN

PAAYASAM

Ingredients

Basmati cut rice - 250 gms
Sugar - 150 gms
Milk - 1½ litre
Water - 2 cups
Cardamom powdered - 3-4
Fried cashewnut & kismish - 50 gms

Procedure :

1. Wash the rice well.

2. In a pan bring to boil 2 cups of water.
3. Add the rice, stir well, so that it is half cooked.
4. Pour the milk and stir well till the rice is well cooked.
5. Add the sugar and stir well for 15 minutes.
6. Add the powdered cardamom, fried cashewnuts and kismish. Serve hot.

— Shruti R.S.
Std XI, Delhi

CORN DHAMAK

Ingredients:

Sweet corn-2, Mustard seeds-½tsp, oil - 1 tsp, asafoetida.

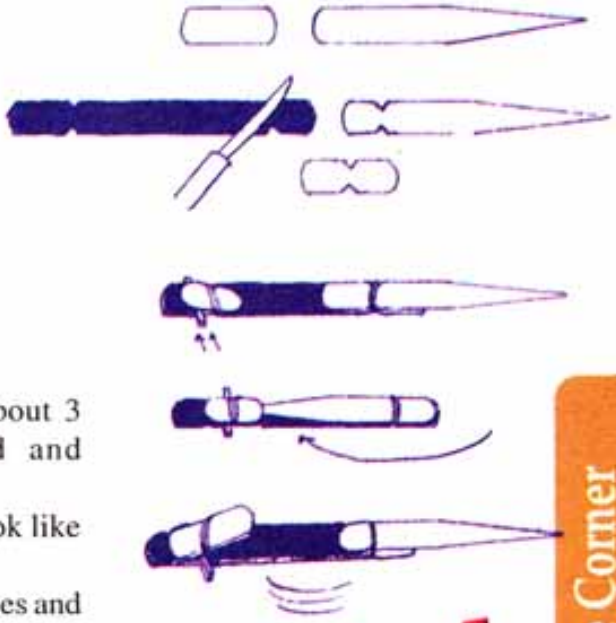
Crush together — small onions - 4, green chilli-2, garlic-2 pods, chopped coriander leaves, salt and red chilly powder to taste.

Method:

Pressure cook corn and seperate the seeds. Heat oil in a frying pan and add mustard seeds. Allow to splutter. Add asafoetida and cooked corn. Stir for a minute and add the crushed ingredients. Fry for a few minutes and serve hot.

— Kaushalya Narendran,
Std IX, Vasant Vihar High School and Junior College,
Thane

Flick Knife!



Materials required:

2 wooden ice-cream sticks
2 small rubber bands
A matchstick
A sharp knife or blade.

Procedure:

Cut one ice-cream stick about 3 centimetres from one end and smoothen it.

Taper the longer piece to look like the blade of a knife.

Make notches on the cut pieces and the second ice-cream stick (as shown in the drawing).

Place the cut pieces on the longer stick with the notches aligned, and bind them with the rubber bands at the notches.

Slip in the matchstick between the long stick and the small piece. This forms the button, by pressing which the the knife can be open or shut.

Swing the blade and lock it under the the smaller piece.

Press the button and the blade flicks open!

Source - Toy Joy (Do - it - yourself - series)

— Diganta Jena,
Std VIII, D.A.V. Public School,
Bhubaneshwar

GREETING CARD

Materials required:

Handmade paper, glue, scissors, lace, glass colours, plate, tracing paper.

Procedure:

Cut the tracing paper and hand made paper for greeting cards.

Pour some water into the plate.

Add a few drops of glass colour to the water and mix.

Dip the tracing paper into it.

Hang out the tracing paper to dry.

Paste the multi coloured tracing paper as you like on the handmade paper. Decorate with jari lace and kundan stones.

- N.R.Akshaya Reddy,
Std VII, Good Shepherd School,
Chennai

Travel

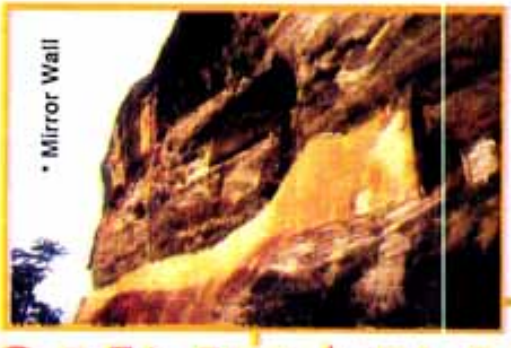
Sigiriya LION MOUNTAIN

Off the southern tip of India, lies the pearl of the Indian Ocean — Srilanka. Srilanka is indeed a home of nature and serenity. Just like the Tajmahal of India and the Great Wall of China, Srilanka too has a monument it is proud of —the rock fortress of Sigiriya. Sigiriya should have been named one of the Wonders of the World, long ago, and now there is a proposal to name it the Eighth Wonder of the Ancient world.

This monument represents the ancient architectural tradition of Srilanka. The trip to this monument from Colombo is only around four to five hours. Srilanka is one of the countries where the culture, tradition and the way of living are influenced by Nature.

Sigiriya has its own legend. According to the Mahavamsa, the ancient historical record of Srilanka, the 5th century King Kashyapa murdered his father Dhatusena by walling him up alive. After usurping the throne from his brother Mogallana, Kashyapa is said to have built his palace atop the Sigiriya to escape the armies of Mogallana. When Mogallana finally managed to get to Kashyapa, he committed suicide!

This single rock towers 200 feet above the surrounding plain. On the summit is the site of the old palace situated on an area of almost one hectare. The outer wall of this palace was built on the very brink of the precipice.



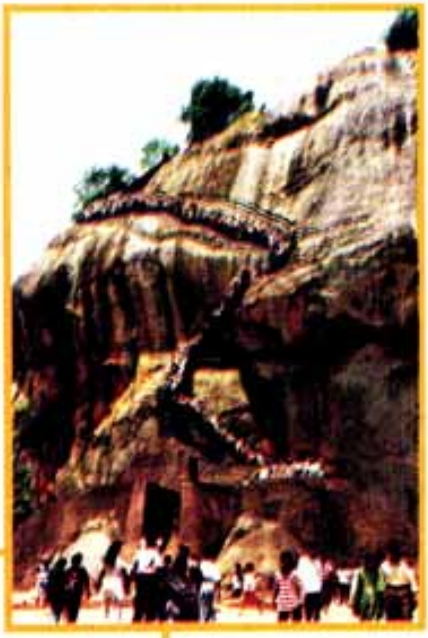
• Mirror Wall

The most significant feature of the Rock was a Lion staircase leading to the palace garden on the summit. This Lion staircase was a gigantic figure, towering majestically against the granite cliff. Through the open mouth of the stone Lion emerged a covered staircase.

All that remains now, are the two colossal paws of the Lion that surround the ancient limestone steps.

The cuts and groves on the rock face give an idea of the size and shape of the lion figure!

The pleasure garden on the western side of the rock is studded with ponds, islets and pavilions. On the western and northern sides of the steep rock face, runs a pathway that helps one reach the seemingly inaccessible summit. Shielding this pathway is a 9 1/2 ft. plaster wall, so highly polished, that even today, after fifteen centuries of exposure to sun, wind and rain, one can see one's reflection in it. Hence the name "Mirror Wall".



* Sigiriya - the summit

* Entrance

* Stairway

The remarkable thing about the rock fortress are the eye-catching–frescoes. Painted on the western face of the Sigiriya rock, they can be approached by a spiral stairway. There are records that refer to the existence of 500 such portraits, but only 19 remain today. It's a wonder that these paintings have survived fifteen centuries! These paintings are said to resemble the earliest surviving examples of an Srilankan school of classical realism. This fortress has been described as "nothing less than a masterpiece of expressionist".

–N.Kiriesakieshan
Belvoir College International of Commerce, Kalubowilla, Srilanka

Colours of the

While on a holiday in the Yercaud Hills with my family, I noticed a green chameleon walking across the road slowly in a very strange way. It's body went up and down, as if it were dancing! My father told me that chameleons had the ability to change colour to merge with their surroundings. On my mother's suggestion I decided to do some research on the chameleons and how and why they changed colour.

The complex phenomenon of colour change by chameleons has challenged scientists around the world. There are three major theories:

1. Under the chameleon's epidermis, there is brightly coloured blood. Until the 1840s it was believed that when there was a change in the concentration of this blood, the chameleon changed colour.

Due to tension or relaxation, the lungs inflate or deflate. This variation is transmitted to the blood, which passes through cavities and vessels, and reaches the epidermis.

2. A theory that was developed later, dictated that the release of various pigmented fluids from internal organs such as intestines and guts, caused the change in colour on reaching the skin.

3.Chromatophore cells are pigmented cells in deeper layers of animal skin. These cells have neurons and the tip of the neurons have tiny branches called Dendrites (from the Greek word "dendron", meaning "tree") spreading toward the surface of the skin. The job of Dendrites is to send information to the cells.

Latest technological improvements show that chameleon skin has three types of chromatophore cells.

The top layer of Chromatophore cells contains Xanthophores (yellow pigment) and Erythrophores (red pigment).The middle layer contains Guanophores or Iridophores (blue pigment). The bottom layer has Melanophores (black pigment).

The granules of pigments in chromatophore cells, selectively reflect and absorb certain wavelengths of light, due to which their concentration varies. With exhibition of different concentration of each pigment, the external coloration produces changes. First, the stimulus received from Dendrites and other sensory organs (like nose, ears, tongue) reach the central nervous system. From here signals are passed on through neurological and hormonal control mechanism to the chromatophore cells. These signals are then absorbed by the pigment granules which react to light, resulting in variation of their concentrations and thus their colour!. This is the latest theory.

Chameleons change colour for a combination of causes:

a) Intensity of external light

b) Variation of temperature

c) A combination of emotional and physiological responses like stress, illness, fear, discontentment and responses to the presence of other animals.

The common belief that chameleons attain any colour based on their background, has been scientifically discounted.The most recognized traits of the chameleon—the colour change process—is also one of the most misunderstood and complex features of this amazing reptile.

— M.Srivatsan,
Std IV,
Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram,
Chennai

Dr. G. GANESAN

Hello Doctor

A Teenager's

•P. Rajiv MBY, Charoda (C.G)

? My voice is girlish and sounds pretty much like my mum's. I feel very embarrassed to talk. Could you suggest some effective remedy to help me overcome this problem?

! The larynx, otherwise called

"voice box", in our throat produces voice. It has two small folds of tissue called 'vocal cords' which are the main sound producers. When we speak or sing, we drive air through the larynx and the air vibrates the vocal cords and produces sound. The pitch of the voice is determined by the size of the larynx. Boys and girls have vocal cords of about the same size until they reach puberty. Hence, the pitch of their voices is same during that period. At puberty, the voice boxes of the boys grow larger and the pitch of their voice varies. It is called 'physiological change in voice'. As you have not mentioned your age, I am unable to give you a satisfactory answer. If you have attained puberty and have this problem, consult an ENT surgeon. There are so many causes for the change in voice such as infection, inflammation, illness, hormonal problem etc. Find out the cause in your case and get the proper treatment.

• Tania Das, Silchar

? After dieting a lot I managed to slim down two years ago. Now I'm 14 years old and still diet since I tend to overeat. Please suggest a daily balanced diet so that I can keep myself physically fit.

! The following dietary allowances are recommended daily for your age: Cereals 430g, pulses 70g, green leafy vegetables 100g, other vegetables 75g, roots and tubers 75g, fruits 30g, milk 250ml, fats

and oils 35g, sugar and jaggery 30g, meat and fish 30g, and egg 30g. You can take these as per the menu plan given here. Breakfast: Bread toast -2 slices with butter, Egg omelette -1, Fruit milk shake - 1 glass. Lunch: Potato paratha -1 medium, Cucumber raita - ½cup, Dal palak-½ cup, Rice - ½ cup, Curd - 1 cup. Tiffin: Rava laddoo -1, Banana - 1, Milk - 1 cup. Dinner: Chapattis - 2, Mixed vegetable curry - 1 cup, Rice - 1 cup, Dal palak - 1 cup, Curd - ½cup. Bed time - Milk 1 glass.

● **Krishna Srinivas, Bangalore**

? What is a stroke? How does it occur?

! Stroke is an injury to the brain. It

Diet

is characterized by sudden loss of function of a part of the body due to the interruption in the blood flow to that part of the brain. The brain utilizes oxygen and glucose from the blood stream to function. If there is an interruption in this process, that part of the brain may die. This is called an 'ischaemic stroke'. It is due to narrowing or hardening of the arteries supplying blood to the brain. Sometimes an artery bursts and blood spurts out in the brain tissue causing injury.

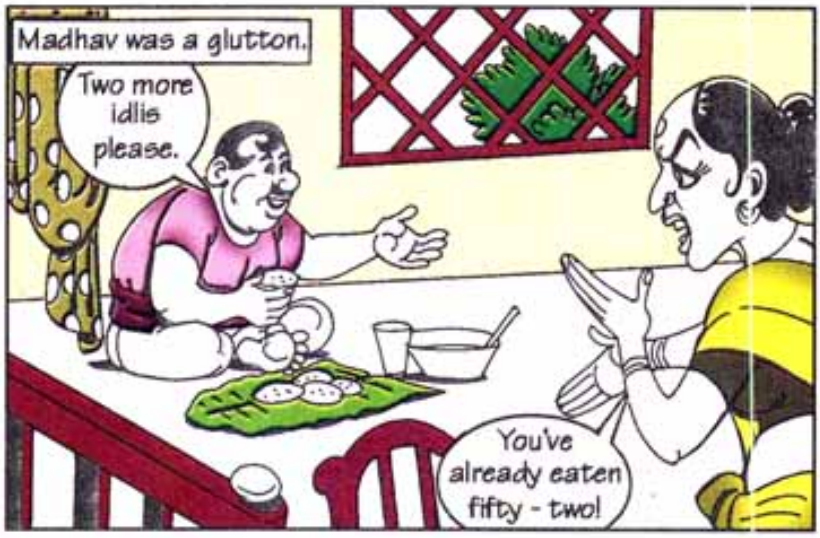
It is called 'haemorrhagic stroke'. Muscle weakness or paralysis of one half of the body, loss of sensation or feeling on the skin and difficulty in speech are some of its symptoms.

● **L.Aruna, Chennai -2**

? How does steam inhalation help to stop headache?

! Usually cold and a block in the nasal passage results in the congestion of the nose and respiratory tract. This congestion causes headache. When we inhale steam with a medicine like tincture benzoin, it opens up the nasal passages and increases the blood supply to the head and respiratory tract, which results in decongestion of these areas. As a result, headache in minimised.

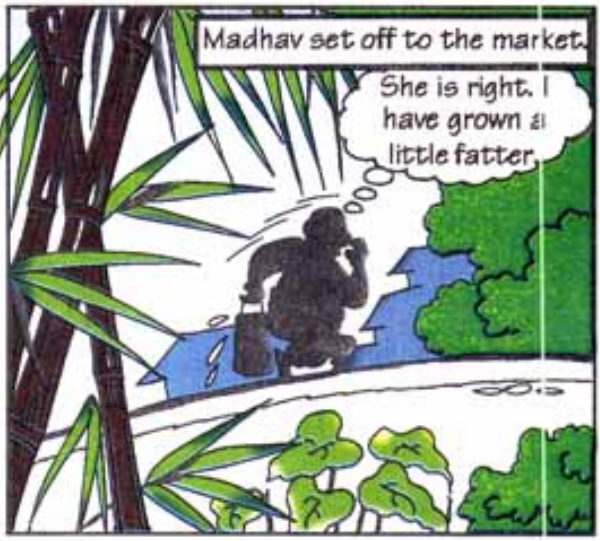
FATSO'S FALL


Madhav was a glutton.
Two more idlis please.
You've already eaten fifty - two!

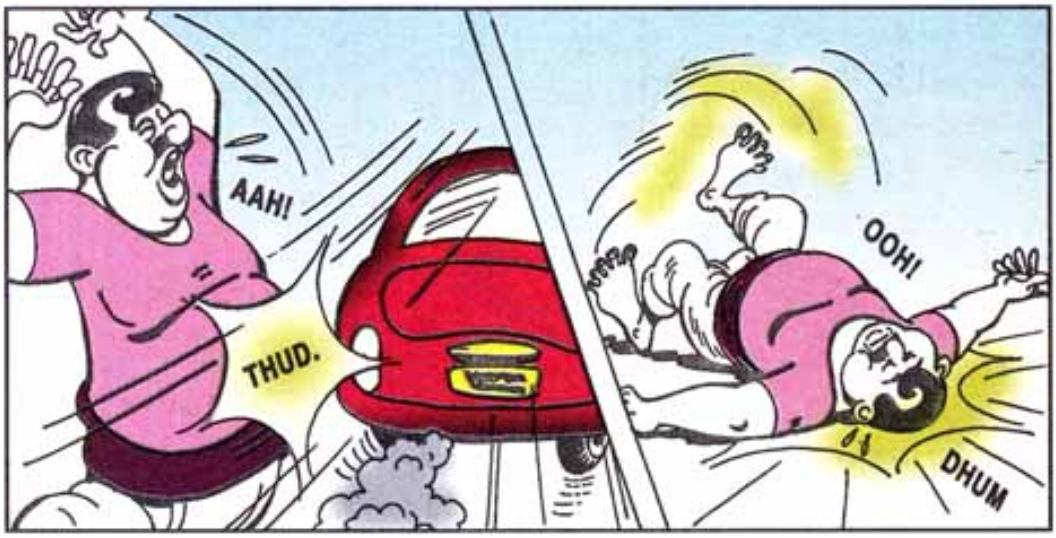
You are eating away all our income.
Oh come on. We shall buy two more cows. Then we will have more money.

What's the use? You will only eat more!

Let us not quarrel. Get me the milk can. It's time I took it to the shop.


Madhav set off to the market.
She is right. I have grown a little fatter.

How can I slim down?
Hey, move aside!
My brakes are not working!
AIYYOO!


AAH!
THUD.
OOH!
DHUM

Fatso has been knocked down.
Come Let's help him up.

Lift him.
Can't! Too heavy!

What do we do now?
Call some labourers.

Soon...
HEAVE HO...
Careful... I may fall down...

We have reached. Put me down.

Thanks a lot, friends.
Madhav, thanks won't do. You have to pay us two hundred rupees per head.

What? Thousand six hundred rupees?
Pay up now!
They took away two weeks' house keeping money. Now you have to starve.
What? Oh No!
Madhav some months later...
Wow! I am slim Now. I can run, jump!
SURESH
How handsome you look now!
Really? Then...
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
...From today, less food and more exercise.
Thank you god!

Exam Phobia

Grandmaworm

I have a feeling that when there is an exam the next day, I should not touch other subjects. But my mother says that such an attitude is not good. Please guide me.

- Athira Unnikrishnan, Mysore

Dear Athira,

Though your mother has your welfare uppermost in her mind, I don't think she is correct in this particular matter. When you have a unit test tomorrow which really counts, you naturally think of that and study for it. It would not be wise to read any other subject, since your mind will be focussed only on the test and what you read will not register in your memory, owing to lack of concentration. Inform your mother that I am on your side. Convince her that though your work with regards other subjects remains pending for that day, you'll make up for it the next day. I am sure she'll understand.

★★★

I go for Hindi and Maths tuition after I come home from school. I can't find time for my music classes. Please suggest a way out.

—NavyaSai, Visakhapatanam

Dear Navya

If you love music you will find the time for it. Usually music teachers don't take daily classes. They will ask you to come twice or thrice a week and ask you to practice at home, which you can do, whenever you find time on the other four days. A note of caution: if you do take to music, be sincere. Half-hearted attempts are a waste of time and money.

★★★

And Tension!

I used to have a fair complexion. But I went swimming and took to tanning. Now I'm being teased for being dark. How can I repair my complexion?

- Ragyeshri, Bangalore

Dear Raga,

There is nothing wrong or inferior in having a dark complexion. It is natural for people living in a tropical country like ours to have a dark complexion. If you do want to regain your fair complexion just keep away from too much exposure to the sun and over a period of time your skin will become light. I advise you not to use any fairness cream or ointment without counsulting your family doctor.

★★★

I listen to the teacher and I am able to understand what is being taught, but I am unable to remember for long what I learnt. Please help me.

—Aravind Raj,
Samayanallur.

Dear Aravind Raj,

Half your troubles are over since you are attentive in class. Take notes; jot down points. Later recall what you learnt and write it out with the help of the notes. Compare what you wrote with the text book. Carry out the corrections required. Imagine yourself to be the teacher and explain the lesson to yourself . If you continue this exercise for sometime, you will find that you are retaining more in your mind and forgetting less.

Love
Grandmaworm

OF FRIENDS

TO MY BEST FRIEND...

I was sitting here thinking
Of the words I want to say,
But they just wouldn't come out right
So I found a different way

I got a piece of paper
And I wrote this poem for you,
My way of saying thank you
For everything you do

For always being nice to me
And staying by my side,
For helping fix my problems
And never leaving me behind

For accepting my thoughts and feelings,
Though you do not understand,

THE ESCAPE OF THE ALIENS

Once when I was playing in the garden,
I saw a beautiful maiden,
She was beautiful and fair,
With long, blonde, wavy hair.
She asked me to follow,
and led me into a hollow;
I went inside deep,
and found some aliens peep.
At first they were frightened,
but when they saw me, they brightened.
They stared at me and began to say,
"We've come from the planet Zay,
When we were flying on our track,
A monster kidnapped us in a sack,

For never giving up on me
And being my best friend

For making me laugh
and letting me cry
And saying you'd miss me
if I were to die

Everything you mean to me
You could never know
In all the ways you've changed my life
I could never show

The way you take care of me, you're my shining star
It's so incredible that's just they way you are

As long as we are living, no matter when or where,
If you ever need me, just call and I'll be there

- B.Divya, Std X,
K.V., Meenambakkam,
Chennai

AND FOE

Carrying us on his back,
He threw us here as a pack;
You must come with us in the space bus,
and do what we say without a fuss."
Before I could say "No",
they took me to a place I don't know,
And they gaped at a monster saying "t'was him",
I saw that he was none other than a human being,
I felt relieved and cool,
When suddenly I heard mom's voice
"Wake up! You will be late for school."

- S.Ajay Shaan, Std VIII,
Arockiamatha Matric.Hr.Sec.School,
Trichy

Butterfly...

From this list of words complete the poem. We have given you the list of missing words in a jumble. Give it try!

Where, were, know, need, to, missed I, you, London, foreign, England, honey, taste, to, some.

Butterfly, they, butterfly, colour, grey, they, bright, white, blue, red, shining, glitter, were.

Did, you, red, were, blue, who, black, did, they, white, friends, better, was, didn't.

Turn to page 78 for the completed poem.

...flutter by...

"Butterfly, butterfly _____ _____ you?
I _____ ___ _____, because __ _____ _____."
"I went ___ _____, to _____ city,
___ _____ some sweet _____ _____!"

"_____, _____, what colour were _____?
_____ and colourful? Or were _____ _____?"
"They were _____ and _____, yellow and _____,
Some _____ _____ with _____, _____."

"Butterfly, butterfly, _____ ____ ____ like?
_____ or _____, _____ ___ _____?"
"_____ _____ all _____, colour _____ matter,
If one was sweet, the other ____ _____!"

Story

THE Missing Necklace

Mintu and Megan were very excited. Their father Mr. Mehta was to host a party that night. It would be great fun to watch all the guests. Megan was a very good artist and could sketch beautifully. Every time there was a party at home, the children had fun recording the antics of the guests.

Mintu said giggling, "Remember the last time we had a party and we saw so many funny things - Uncle Mehra gobbling rasagullas and Aunty Rashmi wiping her fingers on the curtain."

Megan said, "Let's make some sketches tonight too. Look out for funny incidents and I will sketch them."

Soon it was time for the guests. "Hello Mr. Mehta, so nice of you to have us over."

"That's a lovely sari you are wearing, Pinky,"

Megan said, "Let's get to work. We'll sit in that corner where no one will notice us. I could start with Reema's hairdo."

Mintu said, "I think you should start with Rani Roopa. Look at her, showing of her diamond necklace."

"Hey! Look at that man over there. He looks very familiar," Megan said. "He's eating like there is no tomorrow! I'll make a sketch of him too."

Soon Megan had made sketches of almost all the people present.

Suddenly the lights went off.

"I will go and check the fuse

box," Mr. Mehta said. "Please relax everybody."

The lights came on again very soon. Mr. Mehta said, "Someone had switched off the main. I wonder who and why?"

They heard a shriek. It was Rani Roopa. "My necklace, it's gone!" she said.

"This is serious. I will call the police," said Mr. Mehta.

Mintu and Megan discussed the matter in their room.

"Who do you think did it," asked Mintu. "Megan quickly pass your sketches to me." Megan did so. Mintu was checking the sketches of all those who were present. They recognized everyone except a bearded man. Megan asked Mintu, "Who is he? Remember we thought he looks familiar?"

Mintu said, "Let's find out! Just pass me your eraser." Mintu carefully erased the beard from the sketch. "Good God! It couldn't be... but it is!"

It was Deendayal their servant. "We must tell papa at once," they said, running downstairs.

Their parents acted promptly. Deendayal's room was searched. Mrs. Mehta said, "He's not anywhere nor is the necklace, but the fake beard is here. He must have forgotten about it in his hurry to get out."

"Let me inform the police," said Mr. Mehta.

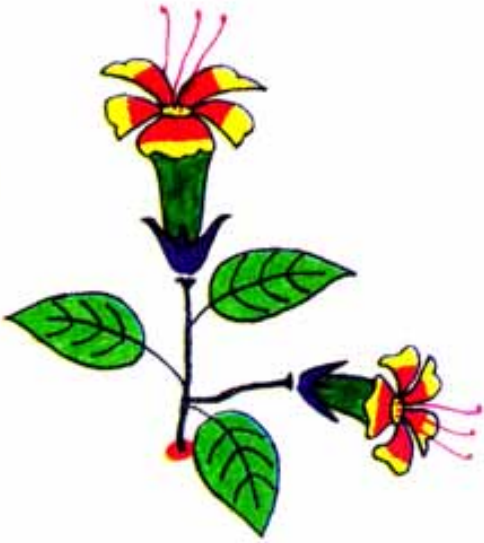
An hour later, the police inspector came in. "We were just in time. He was about to board a train when we nabbed him. Here is the necklace." he said

Mintu and Megan saved the day!

— M. Saipriyanka,
IX Std, Bhavan's Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya,
Sainikpuri,
Secunderabad

A. Thilakan,
Std VII, S.M.B.M. Matric Hr.Sec. School, Dindigul

Projeet Banerjee,
Std IV, D.P.S, Jamnipali, Korba



S. Aishwarya,
Std VI, Good Shepherd Matric, Hr.Sec.School, Marthandam

Prithvi Singh,
Std VIII, Laxman Public, New Delhi

COLOUR Burst

D. Sujitha,
Std VII, Vedavalli Vidyalaya,
Sr.Sec.School,
Walajapet

Parvathy K.K.
Std IX, Bhavan's
Vidya Mandir,
Thrissur

G.Sowmya,
Std I,
Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya
Sr.Sec. School,
Chennai

The Power Supply

"Blistering barnacles!" thundered Tarun. He was very fond of Tintin and frequently borrowed Captain Haddock's famous words to swear at something or other! "A power cut once again and that too just when I am about to commence my homework!"

"It is not a power cut, Tarun. It is power failure."

"What's the difference? Either way I can't read!"

"There is a difference" said his father, Jagan. "A power cut is imposed by the government when production of electricity is at a low ebb, like in summer. Industries are asked to consume less electricity and if they draw more than the permitted limit, they are fined. What we experience now is power failure."

"Power failure indeed! Thundering Typhoons! Will you accept my failure in exams?"

"Of course not!"

"But with this kind of power supply, don't be surprised if I fail!"

"I have faith in you, Tarun, as I have faith in the electricity department!"

As if to prove his words, power supply was restored and Jagan returned to the book he was reading. "Now, finish your homework before the power fails once again!" he said, and both father and son had a good laugh.

Jagan worked for the State Electricity Board and was proud of his work. Tarun appreciated this, but

Squad

loved to tease his father. Jagan took it sportively, as did Tarun when his father took a dig at him now and then.

"Dad! Why don't you take me to a work site one of these days?" asked Tarun at dinner time.

"Sure!" Said Dad. "You will be able to understand our problems better."

"Why not tomorrow dad? It's Saturday!"

"You lucky blokes!" said dad. "We are supposed to be on duty all 365 days! Essential Services, you know!"

"I know. You can be recalled for duty even when you are on leave or on a holiday!"

The next day Tarun rode pillion on his father's mobike. They both wore rain coats.

At the trouble spot, they found workers digging a pit about two feet by one foot.

"Cable fault sir," informed one

of the workers on seeing Jagan. "Water seeped in and there was a short circuit. Another half an hour and the job will be over."

Tarun could smell the strong odour of burnt rubber.

"Where are your gloves?" asked Jagan in a commanding voice. The workers pulled out rubber gloves from their bags and wore them with a guilty grin.

"This is the kind of negligence we face," said Jagan to his son. "Not only here at the work site but also in every house, factory or office building. Improper insulation of wires, lack of junction boxes, ignoring earthing procedures... the list is endless! A short circuit, which means reduction in resistance, will result in sparks and may lead to a major fire!"

"But dad, are not these underground cables water proof?"

"Yes they are. They are good, costly cables but they have to be laid more than two feet deep. When someone lays a water pipe or when some road repair work is done, carelessness leads to damage of the power cable. There are joints in the cable where they branch off and the joints have to be sealed properly to withstand heavy rains and seepage of water. Even moisture is enough to cause damage. The search to locate a burnt out spot sometimes takes hours. The actual repair work may take only a few minutes! During this time we have to shut off power supply, for the

Little Sound Bytes

'Blogging' allows you to post what you wish on the internet. 'podcasting' uses voice or video technology, where you can post a sound file on the internet for open access. Podcasting began in 2001.

PODCASTING

You can, for instance, record your own views on something – a cricket match, some political or environmental development and post it on the web.

With the speed at which technology and access to it are developing, it is predicted that soon, the entire business of news could move to the internet, with what is called the 'citizen journalist'— you and me, providing instant and 24 X 7, very local 'feed' ie. latest news, on the internet.

The blog and the podcast will be aids to this.

safety of our workers."

"Perhaps the over head cable we had previously were better," said Tarun. "I loved to watch the birds perched on them and I used to wonder why they don't experience any shock!"

"That's because the birds had no connection to the earth below. If they had, they would be electrocuted and charred to death!

"Perhaps that is why all high power electrical equipments at home are earthed; to avoid or lessen the chances of an electrical shock?" asked Tarun.

"That's a good observation," said Jagan. "Air conditioners, fridge, water pump motors etc. have to be properly earthed. So also machinery in factories."

Jagan's cell phone rang. He listened for a few seconds and turned to his son. "I have to rush to Korukkupet. Nathamuni Street is submerged in water and a goat traversing it died! Power supply was immediately cut and the area has been cordoned off. Fortunately no human casualities."

"You carry on dad: I'll find my way home," said Tarun. "I have money for bus fare and the bus terminal is near by."

"Inform your mother I may be very late coming home. Let her not be anxious about my safety."

"I'll take care of her, dad," said Tarun, as Jagan kick- started his mobike. "Good luck!"

Tarun held his head high as he walked towards the bus terminal. He was proud of his father.

The number seven has a very important place in all of Harry Potter books. Here are a few of them.

• There are seven books in the Harry Potter series.

Sorcerer's Stone:

• Gryffindor Tower is located on the seventh floor and Gryffindor hadn't won the house cup for seven years before Harry came.

• There are seven obstacles to obtaining the Sorcerer's Stone: Troll, potions, Fluffy, Devil's Snare, flying keys, chess game, and the Mirror of Erised.

• One of the obstacles that Harry and Hermione come across while trying to find the Sorcerer's Stone is seven differently shaped bottles and a riddle.

Chamber of Secrets:

• Dumbledore's office is on the seventh floor of Hogwarts.

• During Harry's trial, Dumbledore states "...clause seven of the Decree (for the Reasonable Restriction of Underage Sorcery) states that magic may be used before Muggles in exceptional circumstances..."

Prisoner of Azkaban:

• There are seven hidden passageways out of Hogwarts shown on the Marauders' Map.

• Flitwick's office is located on the seventh floor.

• When Snape is filling in for Professor Lupin, he instructs the class to turn to page 394. 3 + 9 + 4 = 16: 1+6 = 7.

• There are seven Animagi registered with the Improper Use of Magic Office.

• While on his way to Dumbledore's office, Harry hides as Professor Trelawney passes by, shuffling dirty-looking playing cards. The second one she reads is the seven of spades — an ill omen.

Goblet of Fire

• There are seven locks in

Moody's trunk.

• After the Weasleys, Diggorys, Harry and Hermione arrive with the Portkey to the Quiddich World Cup campground, a voice said, "Seven past five from Stoatshead Hill."

• When Harry fell down the stairs into the room with the veil, seven people came to his aid; Neville, Sirius, Lupin, Moody, Tonks, Kingsley, and Dumbledore.

Order of the Pheonix:

• After hearing a loud, cracking noise while watching the news, Uncle Vernon waves from the window at "Mrs. Number Seven, who was glaring from behind her net curtains."

Half-Blood Prince:

• The book was released on July 16, 2005 ... the month, date and year each add to seven!

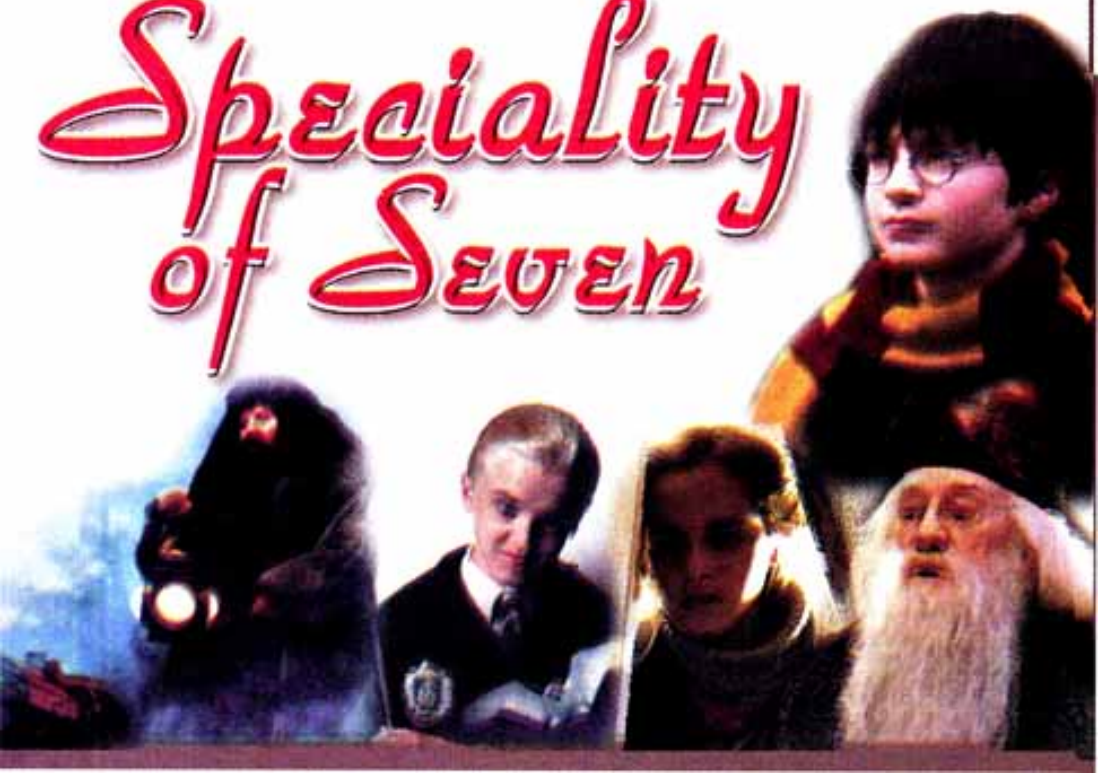
• The Ministry of Magic sends out a purple leaflet with seven ways to protect the home and family against dark forces.

• Harry takes the Half-Blood Prince's advice in his book to brew his Draught of Living Death and "...add a clockwise stir after every seventh counterclockwise stir."

Source: *mugglenet.com*

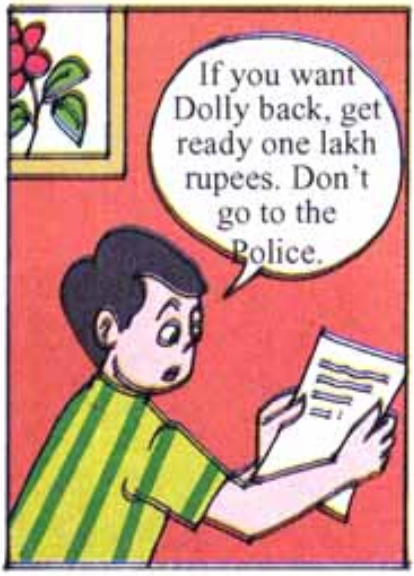
—V. Somya, Std VIII,
Mahatma Gandhi Centenary
Vidyalaya, Trichy

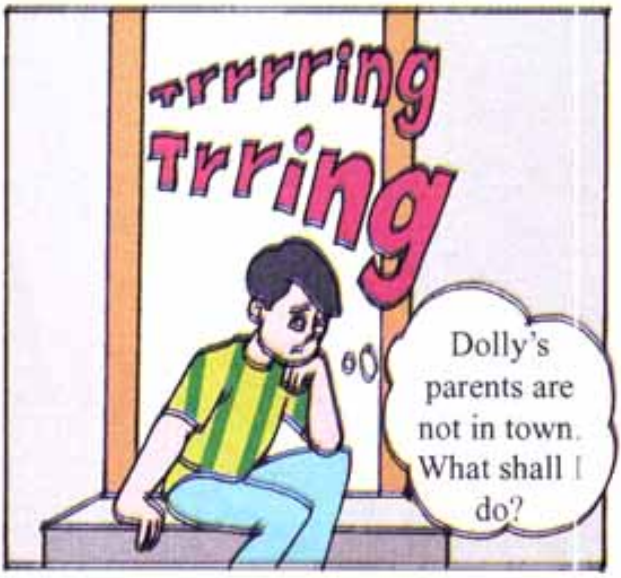
Speciality of Seven



DETECTIVE DUMPY 5

Story : **Marudhan**
Pictures : **Pillai**



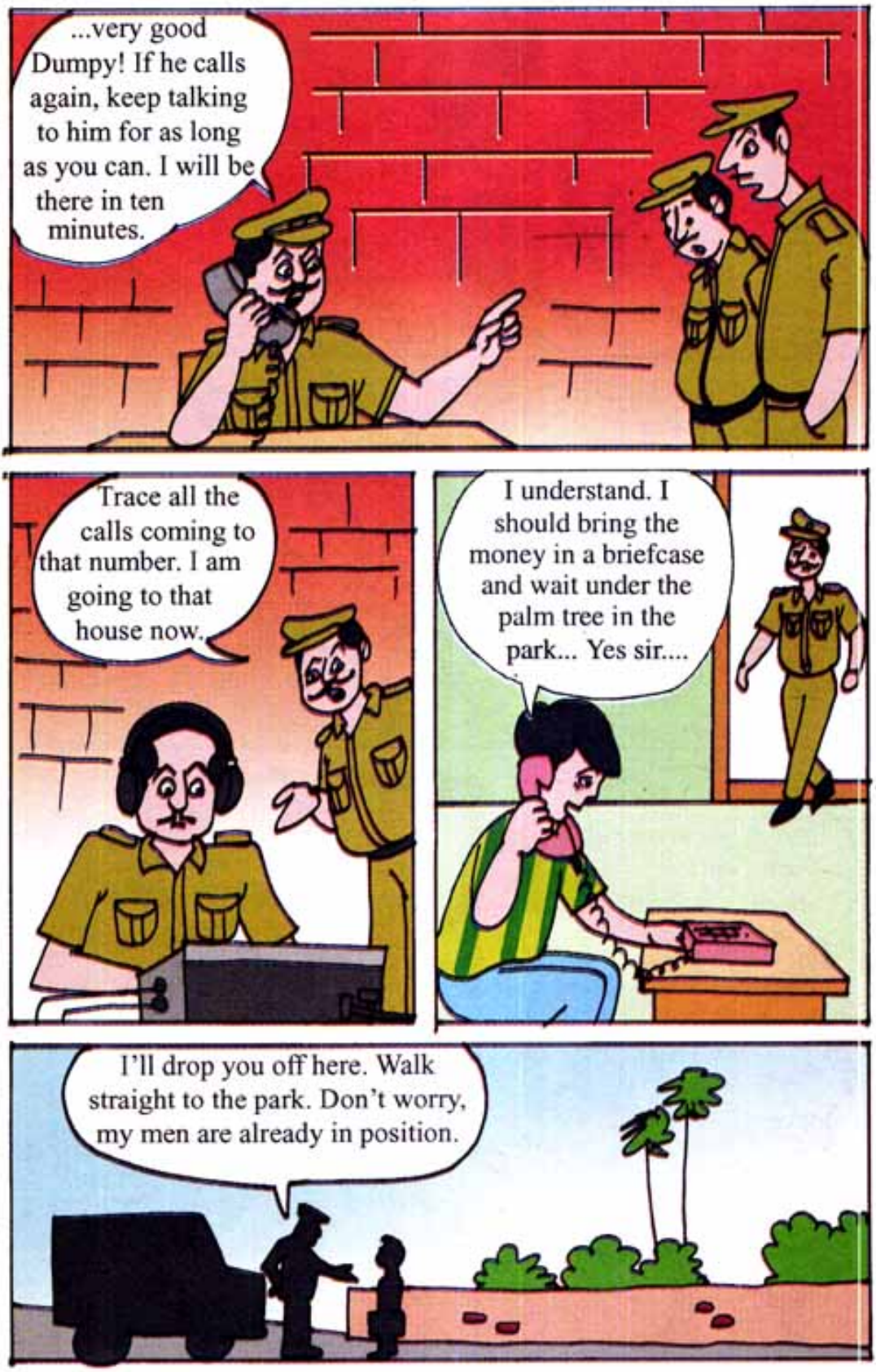


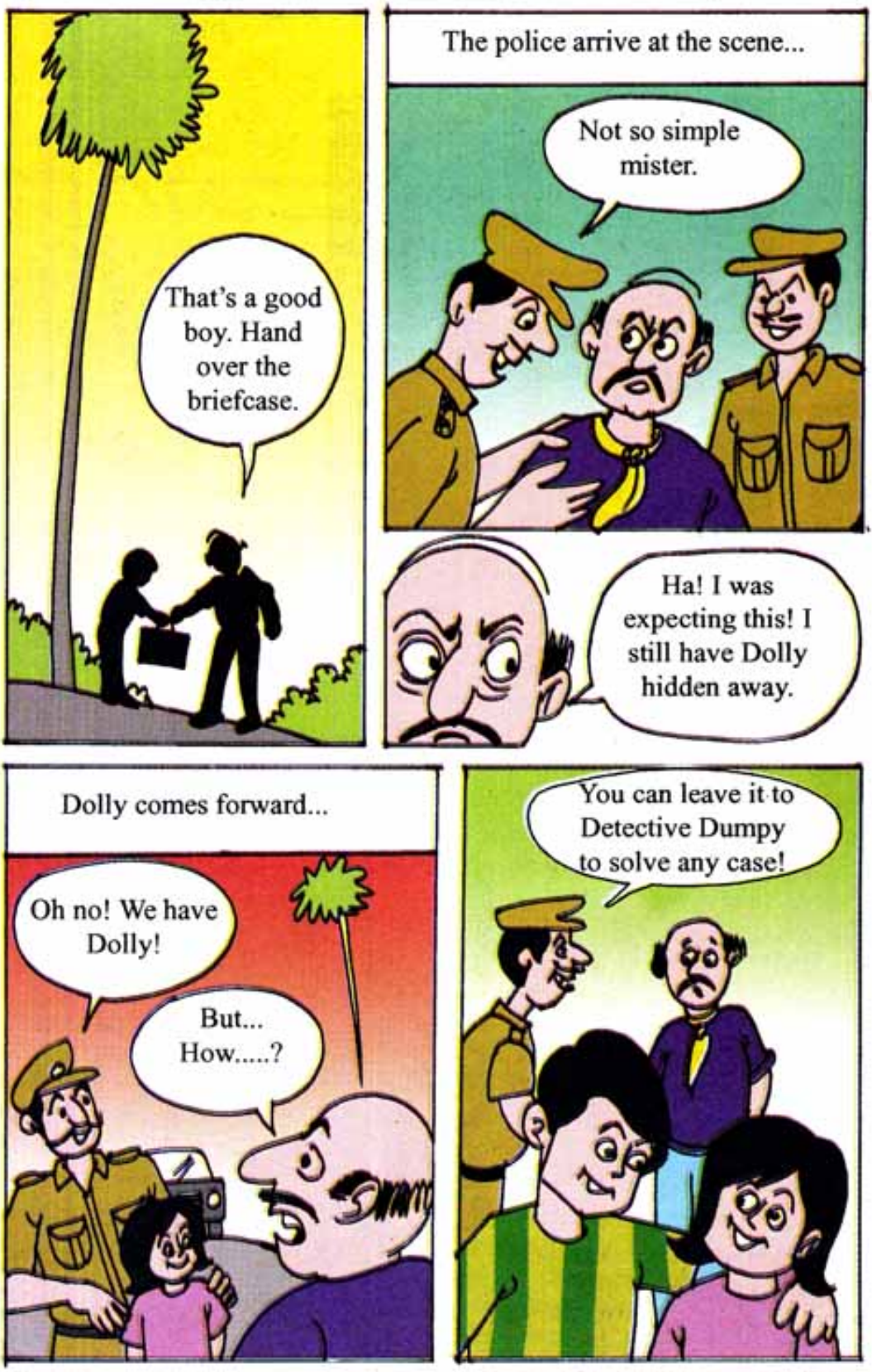
I have got a clue. I could hear an electric train. So the caller must be near the railway station!

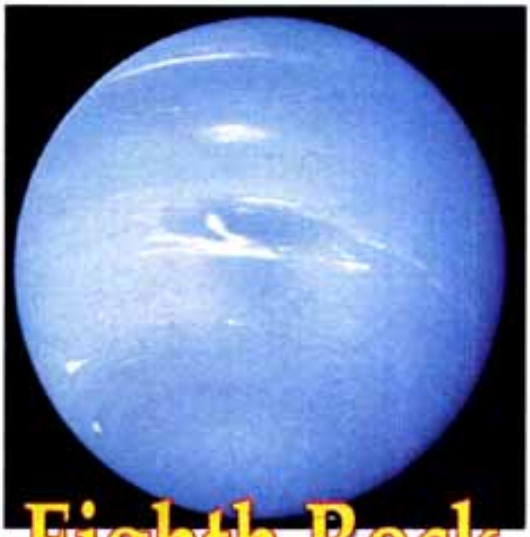
Fifteen minutes later -
Is the cash ready?
No Sir! We need a little more time.

I overheard some talk about room keys - that means a lodge near railway station?

There are three lodges close by. It's time to call the Police.


...very good Dumpy! If he calls again, keep talking to him for as long as you can. I will be there in ten minutes.
Trace all the calls coming to that number. I am going to that house now.
I understand. I should bring the money in a briefcase and wait under the palm tree in the park... Yes sir....
I'll drop you off here. Walk straight to the park. Don't worry, my men are already in position.


That's a good boy. Hand over the briefcase.
The police arrive at the scene...
Not so simple mister.
Ha! I was expecting this! I still have Dolly hidden away.
Dolly comes forward...
Oh no! We have Dolly!
But... How.....?
You can leave it to Detective Dumpy to solve any case!



Eighth Rock from the Sun

- Neptune is one of the two planets that cannot be seen without a telescope. The other is Pluto.
- Neptune is the fourth largest planet in our solar system. About sixty earths could fit inside it!.
- Neptune is about 30 times as far from the sun as is Earth.
- A single season on Neptune, which takes almost 165 years to orbit the sun, can last more than forty Earth years!
- Neptune has not yet completed one revolution around the sun since its discovery; it will do so only in 2011.

- K. Lakshmi Priya
Std VIII, S.B.O.A.
Hr.Sec.School,
Chennai

Weird Cat Fact

Believe it or not! The greatest number of mice killed by one cat? 28,899! Towser, a tortoise-shell tabby in-charge of rodent control in Scotland, killed 28,899 mice in her 21 years. This is about four mice per day, every day, for 21 years! Towser died in 1987.

Source : G.K.book

— M.B. Ezhil Raja,
Std X,
St. John's
Sr.Sec.School,
Chennai

Sam: I pray for a new bicycle and a new CD player and...

John: Why are you praying so loud? God isn't deaf.

Sam: No, but Grandma is!

— Nidhi Choudhary, Std XI, S.V.M. Public School, Jaipur

Mohan: My father is afraid of crossing the road.

Manish: Why do you say that?

Mohan: He always holds my hands when crossing the road.

— B. Rohita, Std IX, St. Ann's High School, Secunderabad

POLES AND HOLES?

Teacher: Ram, if you have two chocolates and if I give you two more how many will you have?

Ram: None. All the chocolates will be in my stomach!

- Pooja .S. Bhat, Std IX, Oxford SS. School, Bangalore

Teacher: Hari, what do you call the people of Poland.

Hari : The Poles.

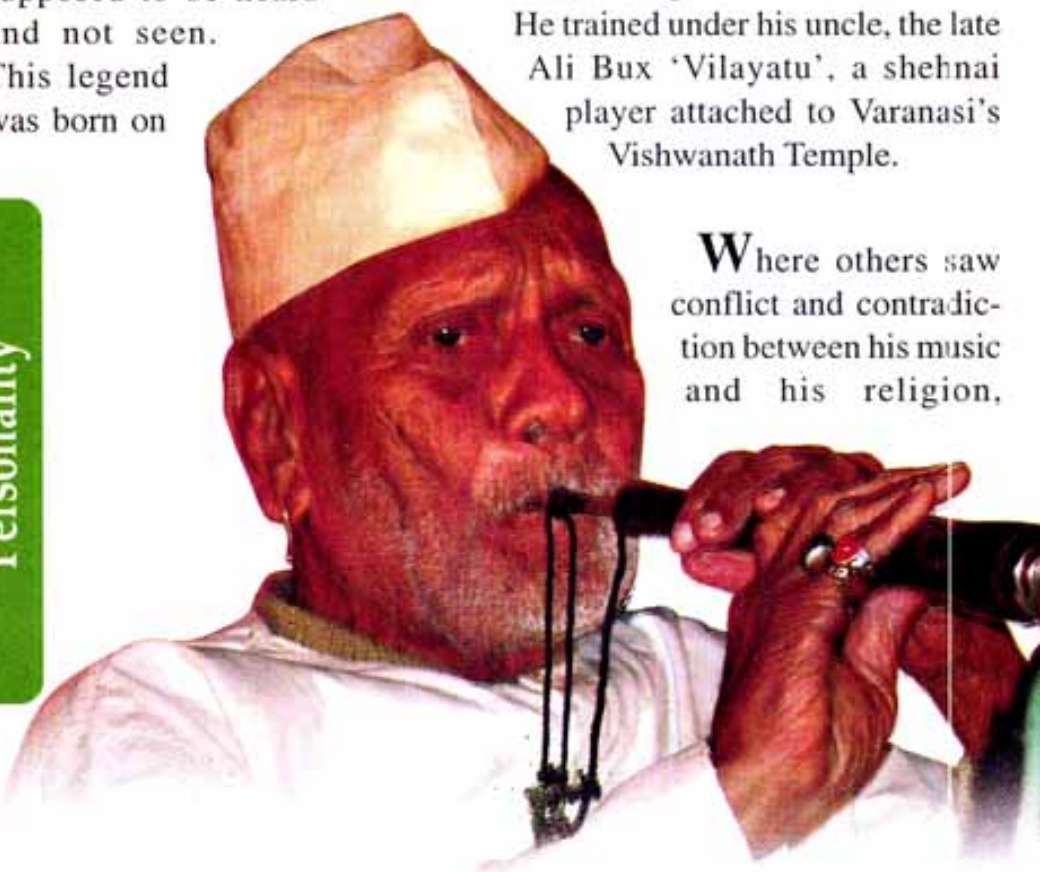
Teacher: Good, and the people of Holland?

Hari: The Holes...?

- K. Madhavi, Std IX, MSS.School, Chennai

The legendary shehnai maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan, was a man who believed that musicians are supposed to be heard and not seen. This legend was born on 21st March 1916, the second son to Paigambar Khan and Mitthan. He was named Qamaruddin to rhyme with Shamsuddin, their first born. His grandfather, Rasool Baksh Khan however exclaimed "Bismillah" when he saw the new born, and he came to be called Bismillah Khan.

His ancestors were court musicians in the princely state of Bhojpur, now in Bihar state. His father was a shehnai player in the court of Maharaja Keshav Prasad Singh of Dumraon Estate. He trained under his uncle, the late Ali Bux 'Vilayatu', a shehnai player attached to Varanasi's Vishwanath Temple.



Where others saw conflict and contradiction between his music and his religion, Bismillah Khan saw only a divine unity. Music, *sur*, *namaaz* are all the same thing, he maintained. The seven *shuddh* and five *komal surs* were his *namaaz*. Even as a devout Shia, Khan Sahib was also a staunch devotee of Goddess Saraswati, the goddess of music. He would be found on the banks of the Ganga playing his shehnai.

Shehnai Maestro
USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN

His honorary doctorates from the Benares Hindu University and Shantiniketan speak of his fame. He has been honoured with the Sangeet Natak Academy Award, the Tansen Award of the Madhya Pradesh government and also the prestigious Padma Vibhushan. He was the third classical musician to have been awarded the Bharat Ratna (2001), the highest civilian honour in India. He also had the distinction of being one of the few people to be awarded all the top four civilian awards.

He has played in Afghanistan, Europe, Iran, Iraq, Canada, West Africa, USA, USSR, Japan, Hong Kong and almost every capital city across the world. Music is an ocean and he felt he had barely reached the shore and after 81 years his search was still incomplete.

Khan was one of the finest classical musicians in post independent India and one of the best examples of Hindu-Muslim unity. Khan had the rare distinction of performing at Delhi's Red Fort on the eve of India's Independence in 1947, and again on the eve of India's first Republic Day in 1950.

He once said, "Even if the world ends, music will still survive" and added, "Music has no caste." Khan took ill and was admitted in the Heritage Hospital of Varnasi on August 17th this year. On 21st August, he passed away due to cardiac arrest.

Even though he is no more, he lives in our hearts and his music will linger in our ears for ever.

Photo source : Internet

Srinidhi Sridhar,
Std IX , Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Vidyalaya,
Trichy

Puzzles

I. RIDDLE-ME-ROCKET

1. You can't count my father's money and you can't fold my mother's saree! Who am I?

2. What kind of music did Stone Age people like?

3. Why is Sunday the strongest day?

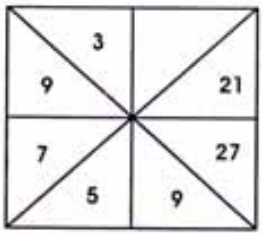
4. I have no legs but I run swiftly. Who am I?

5. What comes down but does not go up?

- R. Anandita, Std VII, Anna Adarsh, Chennai

II. MIND -MATH

Find the missing number



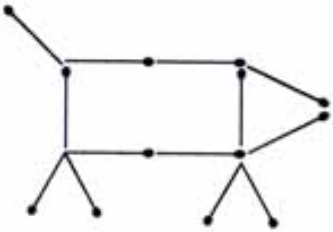
— M.B.Ezhil Raja, Std X, St.John's Sr.Sec.School, Chennai

(Source: *'The Mind-bogglers'*)

III. MATCH WITS

a. Move 3 match sticks to create 8 triangles.

b. Get the dog to face the opposite direction by moving just 2 match sticks.



— M.Niveditha, Std VI, S.B.O.A. School & Jr.College, Chennai

Bend the Brain

IV. THE CORRECT PAIR

Some words give us another word when spelt backwards.

Try choosing the correct pair :-

1. There is a ____ of leftover soup on the ___ shelf of the refrigerator.

2. Kittens are great ___ as long as you don't ___ on them.

3. Rajiv went to ___ and dreamed about clowns tripping on banana___.

4. The ___is not in the corner of the shed along with the other tools, where it ___ supposed to be.

5. The best ___ of the movie was watching the detective ___ the spy.

6. When my friend is in a bad ___ he is always full of gloom and ___.

7. The team ___ the last game, but they are losing this game right ___.

8. Uranium can ___ a lot of radiation over a long period of ___.

9. A ___ of ointment can soothe a ___ burn.

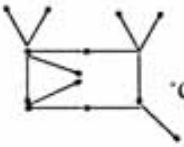
10. After ___tries, he got the ball over the ___.

— V. Vaishali, Std VII,
Seetha Kingston Mat.HSS.
Chennai

Answers:

I. 1. Stars and the sky
2. Rock music
3. All the other days are week days
4. Brook
5. Rain

II. 15. (3 times the opposite number. 3x3=9, 9x3=27)

III. a. b. 

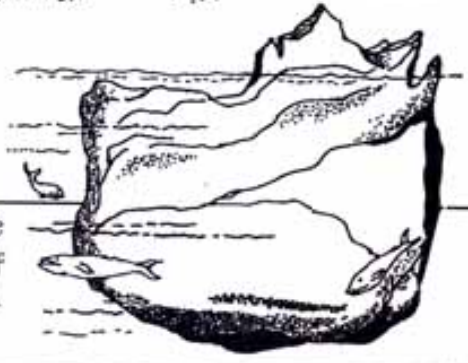
IV. 1. pot, top 2. pets, step 3. sleep, peels 4. saw, was 5. part, trap 6. mood, doom 7. won, now 8. emit, time 9. dab bad 10.ten, net

AMAZING ANTARCTICA!

—AAZHI

The land mass that encircles the South Pole is called Antarctica. Ninety-nine percent of the land is covered with ice and snow. Icebergs go to a depth of 3km into the icy waters. 90% of all icebergs around the world can be found in Antarctica.

Man has tread just one percent of this entire land mass! Antarctica is four times as large as India. Even in summer, the entire area is icebound. The temperature in winter drops to -85°C. This region has six months of continuous daylight. The sun never sets. And for the next six months the sun never rises! It is one long night. Cold winds at the speed of 250 kmph lash this region.

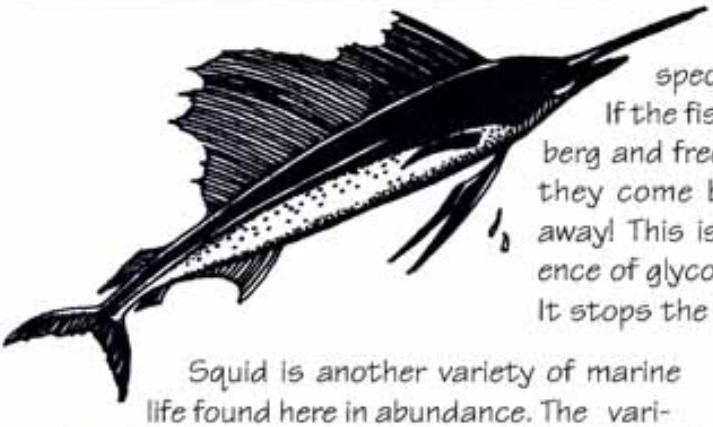


It is during winter that icebergs are formed. Each iceberg has a spread of around 900 sq km. They melt considerably in summer.

Even in such freezing conditions some 800 varieties of plant life can be found. There are 300 species of algae. But there are no trees. However researchers say that there was a time when there were thick pine forests here.

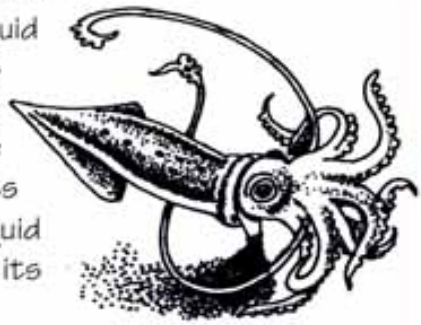
It is impossible for man to live in Antarctica. But this region abounds with animal life. The Krill a small shrimp - like crustasean is found aplenty here. This protein rich creature multiplies at the rate of 200 million tonnes per year.

Around 6,00,000 whales can be found in and around the icy waters of the Antarctica. Each whale eats about one tonne krills. Dolphins also belong to the whale family, and are found in this region.

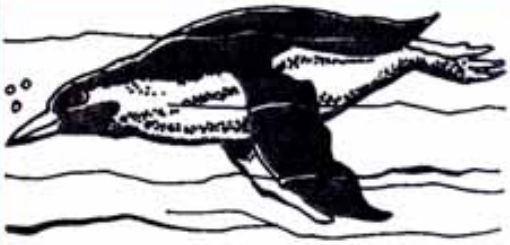


There are a hundred species of fish found here. If the fish get caught in an iceberg and freeze, once the ice melts they come back to life and swim away! This is because of the presence of glycoproteins in their blood. It stops the blood from freezing.

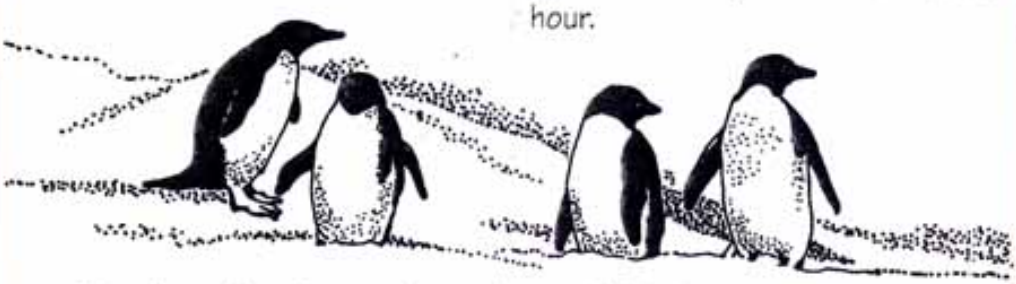
Squid is another variety of marine life found here in abundance. The variety found here grows upto 9.5 metres! The squid moves in a rather peculiar manner. It sucks in the water which is squirted out through a funnel shaped posterior. This pushes the squid through the water. The squid protects itself from predators by squirting a slimy liquid called sepia from an opening at the side of its neck.



Seals found here feed mainly on crabs. They live in holes they dig out in icebergs.



Few birds inhabit this region. Penguins are native to Antarctica. There are twenty species of penguins. Penguins can't fly but they swim using their wings as oars. At home in the icy waters they can swim at a speed of thirty-six kilometres per hour.



It is the males that incubate the eggs! Till the eggs hatch the male will not move an inch and hence starves. When the south winds blow, the icebergs move north. The female of the species travel on these icebergs. By the time they return the hatchlings are out!

Three species of terns are found in this region.

There are twenty species of petrals found here. They feed on krills and baby squids. This is Nature's way of maintaining a balance, say scientists.

Squa is another bird found in this region. They feed on the eggs and young of the penguin. The penguins lay more eggs when the Squa migrate.

Can you find the islands in this sea of letters. You have to discover eight of them. You can find them only in stright lines — horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forward or backwards. G.P.Mahitha of Chennai sent us this grid.

Gogo's Grid-4

S	O	Q	N	K	I	L	A	N	P	B	R
V	S	R	I	L	A	N	K	A	D	C	A
I	F	C	F	I	C	I	Y	W	I	L	C
T	X	A	F	O	L	Y	L	I	C	I	S
I	A	F	A	T	M	O	A	A	M	L	A
R	A	C	B	D	A	F	I	T	H	B	G
V	J	L	D	N	B	E	N	P	I	D	A
A	F	K	I	O	U	M	A	P	A	M	D
M	L	O	R	M	C	A	M	E	L	C	A
O	M	N	S	T	A	I	S	E	T	A	M
T	E	Y	O	U	L	S	A	I	M	F	T
O	T	I	G	C	I	V	T	A	L	O	M

Gogo's Grid-3

P	R	U	P	T	A	R	A	H	B	E
A	L	A	P	E	R	I	Y	A	R	T
H	F	N	A	G	A	R	H	O	L	E
N	Y	T	N	I	E	X	B	S	I	A
A	S	T	E	R	L	M	A	P	E	S
K	A	Z	I	R	A	N	G	A	N	I
E	G	I	K	H	L	P	S	T	V	Q
O	T	E	T	T	E	B	O	G	E	U
G	I	N	A	R	K	A	L	L	A	X
S	A	R	I	S	K	A	N	N	A	T
R	U	P	I	H	D	N	A	B	I	R

Congratulations!

The five lucky winners are:

1. Nandini Neelakantan,
P.E.S Central School,Navi Mumbai
2. S.Vibhaalakshmi,
DAV Girls SSS, Chennai
3. Arun Seshadri,
Kidland English High School,
Dombivli
4. R. Maithreyi, S.R.D.F Vivekananda Vidyalaya,Chennai
5. Pooja.S. Bhat,
The Oxford Sr.Sec.School, Bangalore

In Gogo's Grid -3, the CORBETT National Park had been mis-spelt. The error is regretted- Ed

Gogo's Grid - 4 ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 15.11.2006

Who Can Eat Plastic?

RANI IYER

Plastic, we all know, doesn't degrade like a leaf. But scientists in University of Wisconsin have some good news for us.

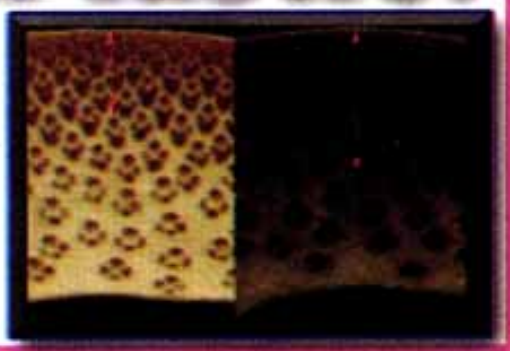
Scientists discovered that White-rot fungus not only breaks down plastic, but also major pollutants such as DDT, TNT, PCBs and dioxins. White-rot fungus belongs to the family of wood-rotting fungus. These fungi produce enzymes called ligninases, which break down lignin. Wood is mostly composed of lignin.

One scientist had an idea. He knew that the molecular structure of lignin and phenolic resins (that make up some kinds of plastic) are similar. Did it mean that white-rot fungus could degrade resin chips like it does the wood or lignin? He tested about eleven different fungi strains, from several hundred species of wood-rotting fungi known to the world.

To his amazement and joy, the colour of the phenolic plastic chips changed from yellow to pink! This was the first sign that the white-rot fungus was breaking down phenol into formaldehyde subunits, which are used to make the resins. Soon, the plastic chips had 'pockmarks' all over the surface. The fungus was attacking it!

• White-rot fungus

Why are people not excited about this finding? Practical applications of this finding are a long way in coming. Phenolic resin based plastics are hard. Unlike polyethylene and polyvinyl chloride, phenolic resins cannot be melted and remolded. Only 10% of all plastic are made with phenolic resins. So recycling all plastic is a long way away. May be you can figure out a way to make that happen.

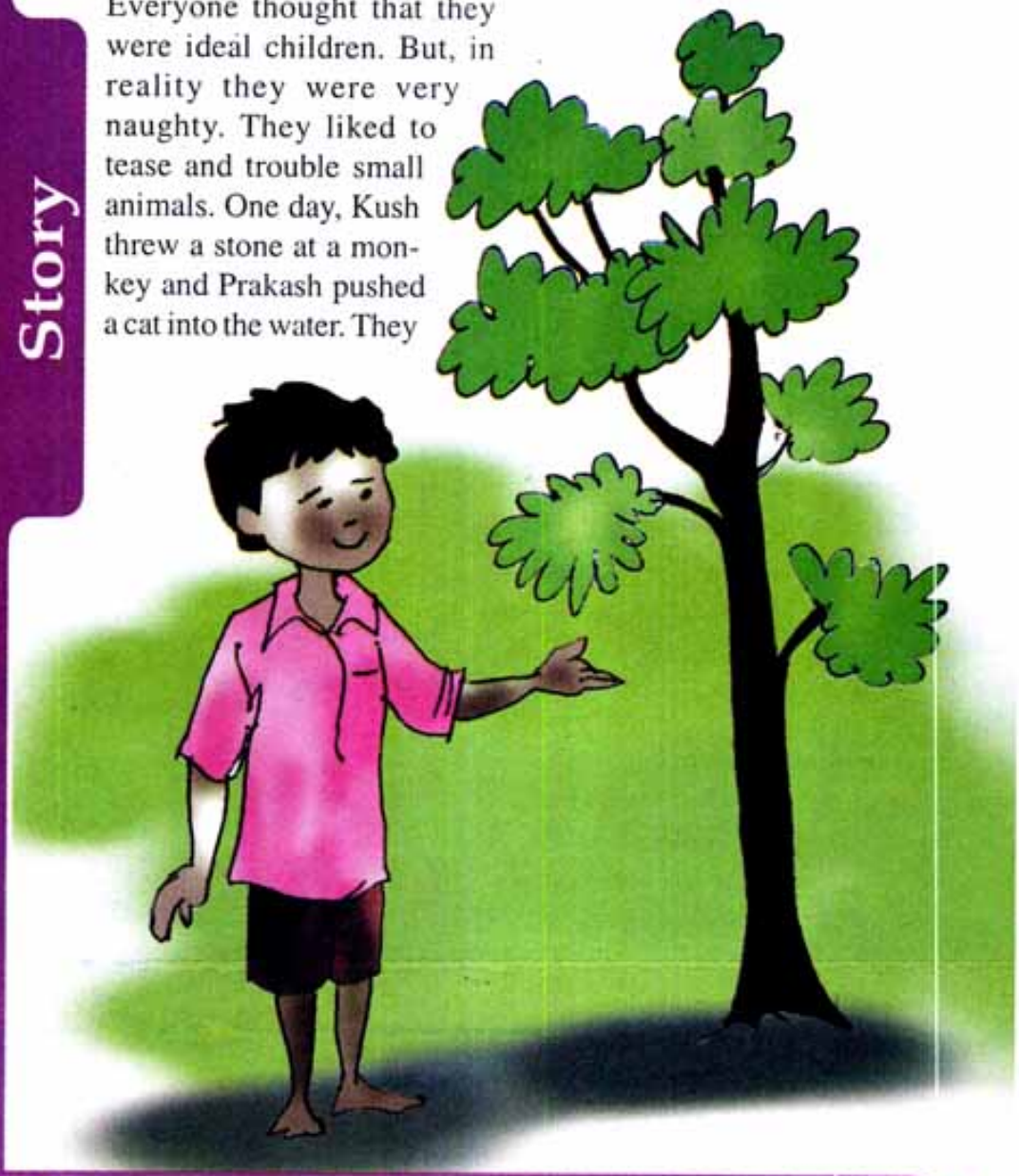


• Lignin

Story

In a city there lived two brothers named Kush and Prakash. Kush was twelve years old and was studying in class seven in a good public school. Prakash was ten years old, studying in class five in the same school. They were intelligent and well behaved in class and at home. Everyone thought that they were ideal children. But, in reality they were very naughty. They liked to tease and trouble small animals. One day, Kush threw a stone at a monkey and Prakash pushed a cat into the water. They were very clever. They would be very naughty only when there was no one around to watch them. Their parents were very proud of them. They Knew nothing of their children's mischief.

One day the children were playing in the garden with their friends. Just then their friend Sukrit came



Those Pesky Boys and the Parasite!

running and took them to his house to show them something interesting. Sukrit's mother offered them cool drinks and snacks. Then Sukrit took them to his garden and proudly showed them his two mango trees and two banyan trees that were two years old and were growing very well. Sukrit had planted them under the guidance of his father. He had nurtured them with great love and tender care. The young trees looked very beautiful. All the boys appreciated the trees and praised Sukrit. But Kush and Prakash grew jealous of Sukrit. They secretly planned to destroy the young trees at an appropriate time.

During the summer vacation they went on a picnic to a park with their parents. They saw a yellow creeper growing all over a tree. The tree was withering due to it. Their father explained: "It is a Cuscuta plant or the Amar Bel, a stem parasite that has no roots and cannot not make its own food as it lacks chlorophyll. If put on a plant or a tree, it develops roots which penetrate the body of the host plant and starts 'sucking' at the food of the host. It could even kill the host tree, you know?"

An evil idea came to Kush and Prakash's mind. They quickly plucked a few branches of the

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

* You may send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail: **gokulam@kalkiweekly.com**

Remember to send in your details— **Name, Age, Class, Name and Address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation. (Source must be mentioned wherever applicable.)**

We cannot guarantee publication of all your contributions nor is it possible to inform you about when it will be published. However, if you would like us to send it back on rejection, kindly enclose a stamped self - addressed envelope.

- Editor

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

If any of your creative contributions are published in **Gokulam** you will receive a **Participation Certificate**. (Letters and queries do not qualify). At the end of the one year period ending June 2007, the contributor who has collected the maximum number of certificates will receive a special prize.

Cuscuta plant when their parents were not watching and hid it in their pocket. They came back home as if nothing had happened.

Sukrit had gone to his grandfather's house with his parents for the holidays. That night Kush and Prakash went stealthily to Sukrit's house. They threw a chocolate to Sukrit's pet dog that was in the garden and threw the Cuscuta stems on the young mango and banyan trees.

As Sukrit's family was away for a whole month, there was nobody to check the growth of the cuscuta plants on the young trees. The plants grew all over the trees that withered and died. When Sukrit returned home he was heart broken at the sight of his withered trees. His father sensed mischief. He told all Sukrit's friends' parents about what had happened.

Kush and Prakash's father realised that his sons were the culprits. He questioned the boys very sternly. They had never seen him so angry. They were really scared and told him the truth. They apologized and promised him that they would never repeat such a mistake in future. He took them to Sukrit's house and they apologized to Sukrit and his father too. Sukrit and his father were quick to pardon them.

Kush and Prakash bought four new saplings of mango and banyan trees from the savings of their pocket money and helped Sukrit and his father to plant them, after cutting down the diseased trees. Kush and Prakash had changed for the better. They helped Sukrit in his garden every day. They never troubled anybody after that. They turned into the ideal children everyone thought them to be!

—Nishal Sharma, Std V,
Delhi Public School,
New Delhi

Arjun Kannan

In this issue let us discuss the etymology of some of the common flowers.

'Flower' comes from middle English 'flour', which in turn comes from Latin 'flos'. The original spelling ('flour') was no longer in use by the late 17th century. It is now used in its specialized sense, namely ground grain or flour.

Lotus, that flower which is often associated with the gods, came in the late 15th century. (It denoted a type of clover, described by Homer as food for horses) from Greek 'lotos'. The term was used by classical writers to denote various trees and plants.

Flower Power!

The ubiquitous red rose, gets its name from Old English via the Latin word 'rosa'. Lily, on the other hand, comes from Old English 'lilie', in turn from Latin 'lilium' and Greek 'leirion'.

Marigold, which is an orange garden flower, gets its name from Mary (probably referring to the Virgin Mary) and 'gold', which denoted the corn or garden marigold in Old English. Chrysanthemum, a similar flower originally denoted the corn marigold and comes from the Greek root 'khrusanthemon' (from 'khrusos'-gold + 'anthemon'- flower). This is also the symbol of the Japanese throne.

Hibiscus, which comes from Greek 'hibiskos', was identified by the Greek, Dioscorides, with the marsh mallow. Jasmine, the flower whose scent is used to flavour many food items including tea, comes from Arabic and Persian 'yasamin'.

Viewpoint

We are a nation in which 58% of the population depends on agriculture. However, statistics show that since 2001 the death toll of farmers has crossed 3000. Recent studies indicate that 46% of the farmers want to quit agriculture and another 26% consider agriculture unprofitable.

Taking these figures into account, proper steps need to be taken to preserve the declining agro-population, as it contributes 38% of the total national income. Farmers need to be rehabilitated, and the peasants need alternate jobs that are profitable. The money for this lies in the technological boom. Hence selective farmland can be turned into satellite towns, as there is also the need for space to cater to the growth of industry and technology.

— M. Sneha, Std X
St. Anne's Girls' High School,
Bangalore.

Satellite towns are necessary to solve the ills of overpopulated towns and cities. But the solution does not lie in taking over agricultural lands. After all where does the food come from? However there are large tracts of wasteland, which could be used to solve the problem. So both agriculture and industry can help each other and our country can be self sufficient in all respects.

— K. Vasanthi, Std VII,
Jawahar H.S.School,
Neyveli.

The basic necessities of life are food, clothing and shelter. Food comes first. If agricultural land is turned into concrete jungles, what happens to food production? Then there is the problem of pollution that follows industrialisation.Converting agricultural land into towns is definitely out.

— U.Ramesh, Std XI,
Carmel M.H.S.School,
Erode

In my opinion, agricultural land should not be turned into satellite towns. Though satellite towns could be helpful, the loss of agricultural

Green Fields VS

land will result in the decline of the country's economy. Agricultural land is vital since we need food to survive. Can they be grown in satellite towns? After all we are an agricultural country.

— N. Akilesh, Std VIII, I.T.I. Central School, Bangalore.

I think that 50% of agricultural land should be turned into satellite towns. Technology is advancing rapidly and India must become a developed nation soon.

— Chris A. John, Std IX, Mount Carmel School, New Delhi

Turning agricultural land into townships is not a good idea. If the country targets to develop science and research at the cost of agriculture, it will face a shortage of food. However, there is a solution, and that is to turn non-fertile land into towns. This way both agriculture and technology will be promoted.

—B. Sanjay Kumar Patel, Std XII, Carmel M.H.S.School, Erode

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

Tuitions after school! Should the lessons not be taught during schools hours? Should the children not have time to pursue other interests?

Send us your views by 15.11.2006. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

Serial - Chapter 5

The Case

Christmas hols and the children had a lot of time on their hands. They made best use of it by going round Basavappa Colony, meeting residents and trying to spread the message of unity as advised by Mukherjee.

But there were few takers. Everybody wanted security but they recoiled when it came to the question of parting with twenty five rupees every month. "What if we pay and others don't? Will we get a refund? Where is the guarantee?" Let others pay first and we will follow suit. We don't want to be the first to pay and earn the wrath of others who are against this idea" and so on... excuses... excuses...

"This is leading us nowhere," said Geetha.

"At least we have made one hundred copies of Mukherjee's address and phone numbers and distributed them among residents as he wanted us to do," said Suriya.

"We were also on the lookout for suspects while talking to the residents," said Rita.

This was true. They had taken mental notes, compared them and made a final list of four suspects:

a. Afzal Ali, who went to the gym regularly and had built up a strong muscular body. He looked as if he could win a tug of war with an elephant!

b. Sailesh Babu who had in his house a long pole with a sickle tightly tied to one end. He said he used it to pluck mangoes which were out of reach in the tree at the backyard of his house!

c. Sunil Kumar, appeared to live

rather luxuriously considering his job as a stenographer in a private company.

d. Finally, Nagaraj, the prime suspect according to the girls. They believed they had enough reasons to accuse him.

"We have to get back to the cop and give him our report," said Geetha.

"Why don't you ask your brother to help you?" Suggested Rita.

"You can ride the pillion," said Suriya.

of the Cupboard Puller

But the idea did not click with Renu. "You're crazy as usual," he said and tried to walk through the front door with his cricket bat.

"You just wait," threatened Geetha. "Just wait till I inform Mrs. Manjunath that it was your sixer off a loose ball which broke her window pane!"

"Mom!" Renu called aloud. "Your daughter is blackmailing me!"

"Why should your sister do such a shameful thing? What's up?" asked Reshma looking out of the kitchen.

"She wants to meet the Commissioner of Police! As if he has the time for stupid, prying girls like her!"

"If he doesn't want to see me at all, why should he give his card to me?" asked

Geetha, taking the card out of her shoulder bag with a flourish. "This will act as a passport for me! I can meet him any time!"

"She has a point there," said Reshma. "I heard him requesting her to help dad gather the residents together under an association."

"Alright! Alright! I'll take her to the Commissioner's office," said Renu addressing his mother. "But don't hold me responsible for the consequences."

To Renu's surprise, the security officer outside the office of the Commissioner of Police was courteous and invited them to take their seats in an ante room while he informed the Commissioner about their unscheduled arrival. The card which the CoP had given to Geetha did the trick! They were summoned to his presence in a matter of minutes.

"Hello! What brings you here?" he asked extending his hand to them and motioning them to sit in the chairs opposite to his desk. "I hope it is something important."

Geetha nodded and came straight to the subject. "It is Nagaraj a resident of our colony. He is our prime suspect!"

"What makes you come to such a conclusion?"

"He is a Tamil!"

"Ho, Ho, Ho!" Laughed Mukherjee. "Just because he is a Tamil and has settled down in Bangaluru in your colony, he must be the bureau puller from Chennai!.... That's your inference. There is no evidence."

"He has a walking stick curved at one end as a handle and I am sure it has a steel rod embedded inside to give it strength. The handle part is chipped off a little and I could see steel inside!"

"And the walking stick is chipped off because he uses the handle as a hook to pull steel cupboards nearer to the window! That's your surmise. But sweetie, you forget that Nagaraj is handicapped. One of his legs is bent and is shorter than the other. He had an accident when he was young

Shiv Rohith Adhikari celebrates his 12th birthday on 21 November.
A very happy birthday and many happy returns of the day from his family and all his friends.

BIRTHDAY BASH!

Meghana Murali celebrates her 6th birthday on 9 November. "Happy Birthday and many happy returns of the day." Best wishes from your loving friend, Sneha.R., Trivandrum.

M. Akash Nagarajan celebrates his 4th birthday on 11 November. " Many more happy returns of the day to my dear brother. May God shower his grace on you!" M. Akshaya, Chennai.

and the walking stick is a part of him."

Geetha was surprised. "How do you know all this? Have you met him?"

"Ofcourse! And a few others too, in your colony. Do you think that I came there only to meet your father? That would have been unfair to the other residents."

"Sir," Renu butted in. "A lame man develops strength at another part of the body. Nagaraj may be very strong in his shoulders and in his arms!"

"That's a good observation, my chap! But don't worry. I know Nagaraj is harmless."

Renu was upset at the Commissioner phoo phooing all that his sister had said. So he continued to attack Nagaraj.

"He didn't want an association; he would not pay the subscription and he discouraged others too from paying!"

"Now, why would he do that?"

"Because, he did not want any security person guarding the streets of Basavappa colony," replied

BUTTERFLY, BUTTERFLY!

This poem and drawing have been sent by Lakshmi.S Std V, S.S.N.K.M.Sharda Mandir School, Cochin

"Butterfly, butterfly, where were you?
I need to know, because I missed you."
"I went to England, to London city,
To taste some sweet foreign honey!"

"Butterfly, butterfly, what colour were they?
Bright and colourful? Or were they grey?"
"They were red and green, yellow and blue
Some were shining with glitter, too."

"Butterfly, butterfly, who did you like?
Blue or red, black or white?"
"They were all friends, colour didn't matter,
If one was sweet, the other was better!"

Geetha firmly. "That would be a real hindrance to his criminal intentions!"

CoP smiled. "That is one way of looking at the situation, Geetha. But has it ever occurred to you that Nagaraj could be really in want, if not poor!"

"He says it is the duty of the Government to protect the citizens. He believes that paying our taxes properly is enough."

"He is right, you know," said Mukherjee. "The police department has been created to protect citizens. Nagaraj may be a little unrealistic but I can't find fault with his logic. Now, if you will excuse me, I have a lot of work pending!"

Geetha knew that her time was up. "I'm sure you don't want to hear about our other suspects," she said sadly as she walked out of the room, totally disappointed, followed by Renu.

He felt sorry for his sister.

"Hold tight," he said, as he accelerated the mobike and added, "Chins up!"

A glum faced Geetha met her friends late that evening and gave them details of her conversation with the CoP.

"This chap Mukherjee, is stupid!" Declared Suriya.

"Agreed!" Announced Rita. "He makes up his mind first and creates arguments to suit his preconceived notions!"

"Now we have to fight on two fronts," said Geetha with determination. "The cupboard puller on the one side and the Commissioner on the other!"

"To get at the truth," continued Suriya.

"And to render justice!" concluded Rita.

(To be concluded)

✉ *I have been a regular reader of the Gokulam for over a year now. I eagerly await the magazine every month. Recently my name was published in the Pen pals page and I've a got a friend from Srilanka. Thank you Gokulam!*

— Yash Agarwal,
Age 11, Salem

✉ *I've have been reading Gokulam for six years and I find it very interesting. My favourites are Grandmaworm and The Case of the Cupboard Puller. Here's a suggestion: it would be a good idea to add the person's email address in the pen pals column. A number of us use the internet now and it is so much faster.*

— M. Prarthu, Age13,
Chennai.

✉ *Thank you for publishing my article in creative corner in the October issue. Gokulam is the best magazine I have ever read. I liked the story 'Vanished'. Dumpy and Tinku are very funny.*

East or West
Gokulam is the Best!

— Aisiri Shankar,
Age 11,
Chennai

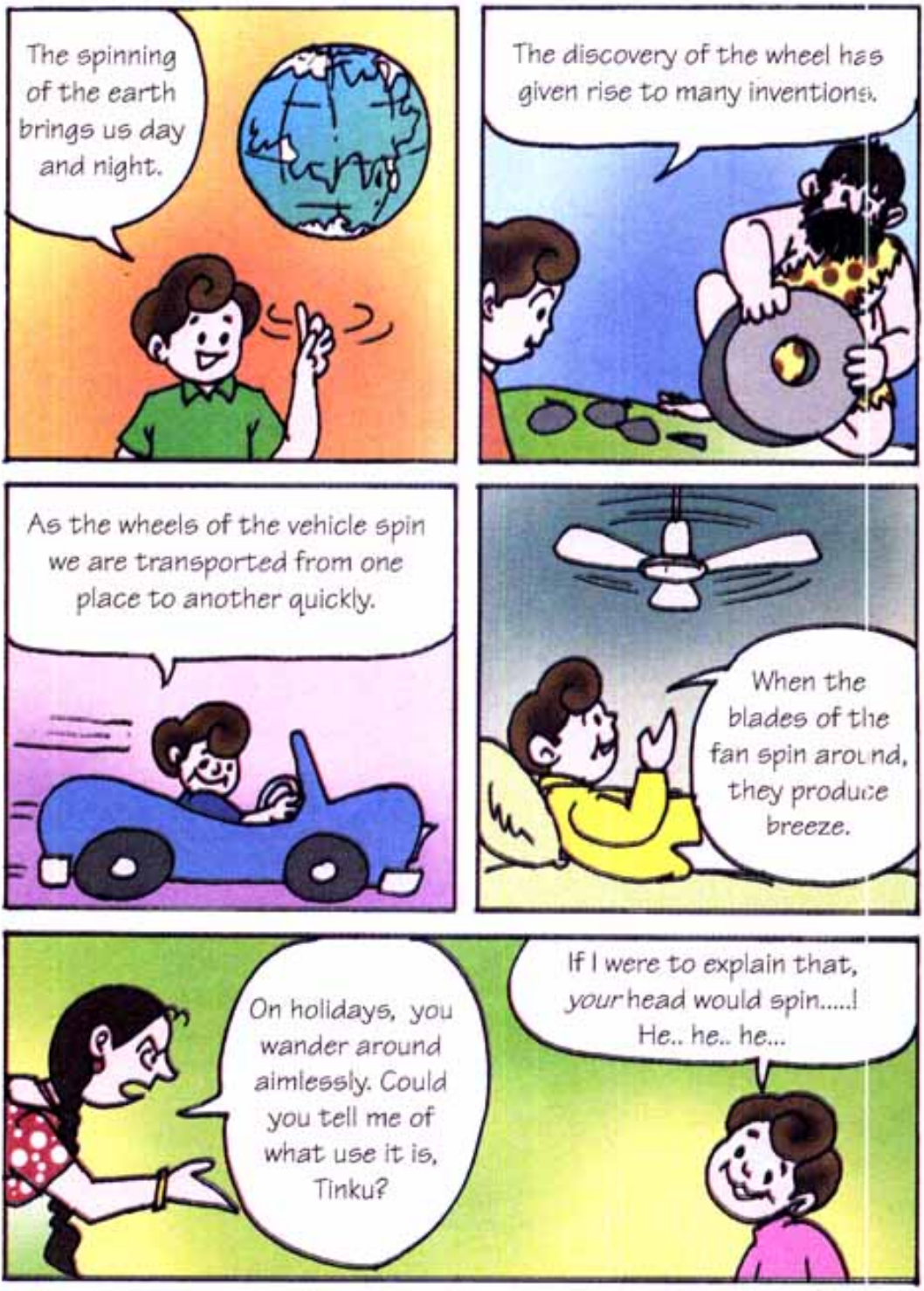
Thank you Gokulam!

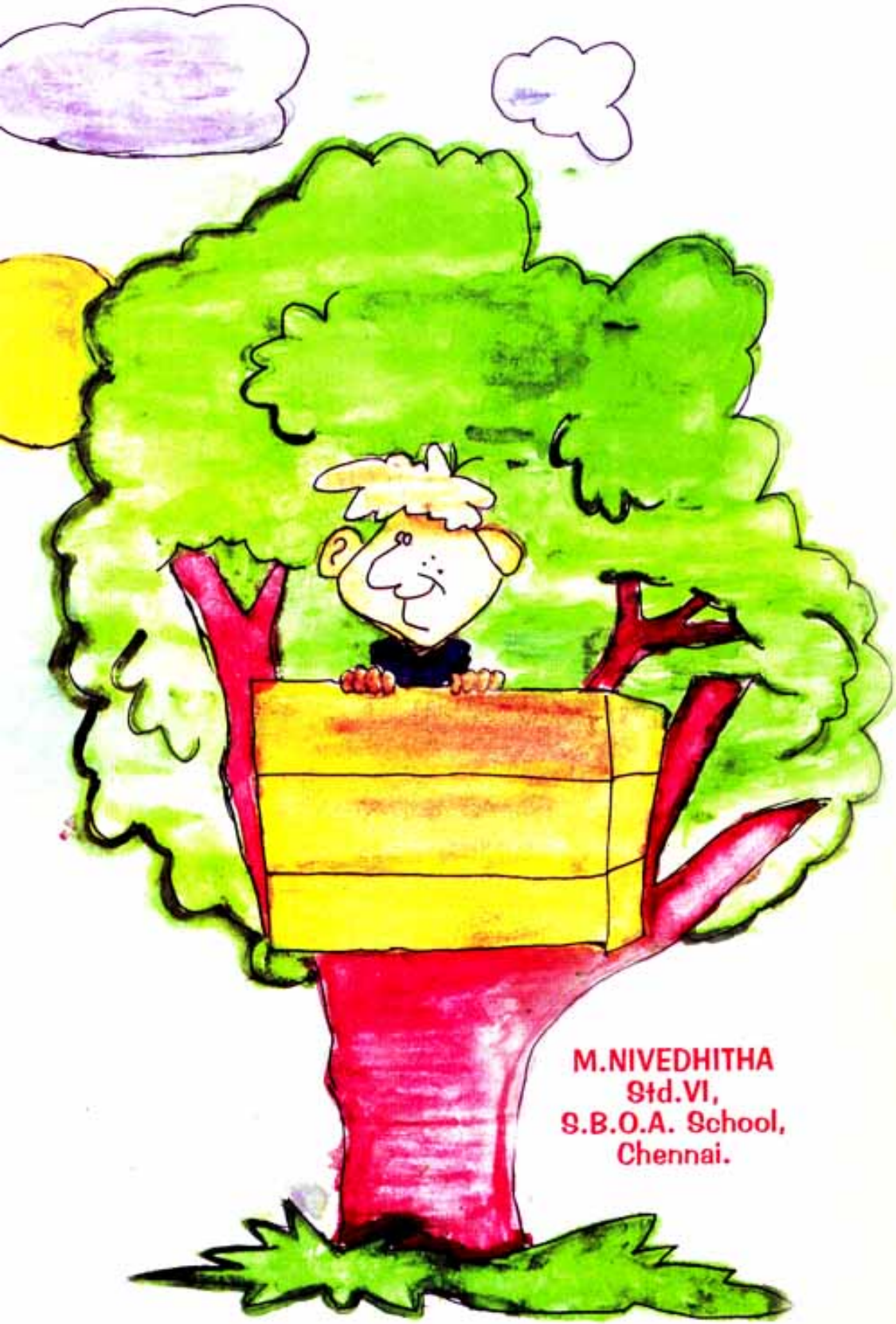
✉ *I love Gokulam. Earlier I could not speak or write anything on my own. But since I started reading Gokulam, my language has improved. I like Grandmaworm, Pot Pourri and the other articles and stories. Could we have Panchatantra and Vikramadithya stories too, please?*

— S. Akshara Iyer,
Age 14, Marthandam

TINKU

Story, Pictures: Pillai





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Std.VI,
S.B.O.A. School,
Chennai.

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